

# 7 Men Indicted For Slavery In Birmingham

*Advertiser*  
Farmers Are Charged  
With Beating Negroes,  
Involuntary Servitude

BIRMINGHAM, Sept. 9 (AP)—A federal grand jury has indicted seven white farmers on charges of holding Negroes in slavery and beating them. One Negro man who tried to run away allegedly died as the result of a whipping. The indictments against six Alabama farmers and one Mississippi man were revealed when six of the accused men surrendered at the U. S. marshal's office today. They were released on \$1,000 to \$2,500 bond each.

They were identified as Oscar Edwin Dial, 27; Fred N. Dial, 25; Grady Clarence Dial, 28; and Robert Mitchell Dial, 44, brothers; Arthur Arnold Dial, also known as Otto Dial, 27, a second cousin of the other Dials; and Charles Harper, also known as Francis Harper, Portersville, Miss.

Oscar Dial and Harper were released under \$2,500 bond. The rest posted \$1,000 bond.

## Sumter County Defendants

U. S. Dist. Atty. Frank Johnson Jr., said Lindsay Winyard Dial, 43, a first cousin of the Dials, would give himself up at the marshal's office tomorrow under the same indictments.

All of the Dials are farmers in Sumter County, Ala., where they have extensive holdings. Sumter is in West Central Alabama.

Johnson and J. M. Lopez, agent in charge of the Birmingham FBI office, disclosed details of the cases.

The indictments charge that the farmers paid fines levied against the Negroes, then brought them to the Dial farm near Boyd, Ala., to "work out the debt," holding them in "involuntary servitude and slavery."

## Negroes Tied And Whipped

The federal officers charged that four Negroes were tied and whipped with a lariat rope. The indictment gave this account of the alleged fatal beating of Herbert Thompson, also known as

"Monk" and "Monkie:" Fred Dial brought the Negro to his farm after paying a fine for him in Lauderdale County, Ala. When Thompson tried to run away early in May, he was caught by Fred and Oscar Dial.

## Forces Others To Whip

Fred Dial held a shotgun on Cliff, another Negro, Fluker, and told Fluker to tie Thompson over a bale of hay, the indictment charges. Fluker refused to do this, so Dial then ordered him to hold Thompson while Dial tied the Negro around the neck, waist and feet.

The indictment alleges that Fred Dial then forced "other persons" at the point of a shotgun and pistol to beat Thompson with a rope, and also struck the Negro himself.

John Leon Rutledge, a 16-year-old white boy, also held a shotgun on the others while Thompson was being whipped, according to the indictment. No charge was listed against him.

After the beating, the Negro was carried to the home of a man identified as Grant Hopson and died there May 9, the indictment alleged.

## Charged With Using Rope

Oscar Dial is charged with tying Coy Lee Tanksley hand and foot and beating him with a lariat rope. The indictment said Dial paid a fine against Tanksley at Meridian, Miss., and brought him to the Dial farm late in January.

Oscar, Grady and Fred Dial and Charles Harper were charged with tying up and beating another Negro, Matthew Williams, on the floor of a Sumter County clubhouse in December, 1951.

Williams was quoted as saying "They guessed they had gotten

about \$15 out of me."

He was treated at a York hospital Dec. 24, 1951.

Johnson said the other defendants also were accused of taking part in beatings.

Fred Dial went to a Mississippi field where Williams was working in July and warned him not to say anything about the beating, the complaint asserts.

Fred, Lindsay, Grady, Robert and Arthur Dial also held John Henry Lowe "in a condition of peonage and compelled (Lowe) to work in payment of a debt claimed," the complaint said.

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## ALABAMA

# Federal Count Says Workers Tied, Beaten

## One Victim Died, Indictment Avers

BY MARTIN WALDRON

Seven West Alabama farmers yesterday were charged with spring Negroes from jail in Mississippi and then beating them and pressing them into slavery on farms.

An investigation into the matter began when one of the Negroes died after a beating.

All of the men, indicted by the federal grand jury, are connected with the Dial family of Sumter County. Six are direct members of the family and the seventh is married to a woman member of the family, the district attorney's office in Birmingham said.

Named in the federal indictment were Oscar E. Dial, 34; Fred N. Dial, 25; Grady C. Dial, 28; Lindsay W. Dial, 43; Robert M. Dial, 44; Arnold Dial, 27, and Charles Harper.

Six of the men surrendered in Birmingham and were released under bonds ranging from \$100 to \$2500. The seventh, Lindsay W. Dial, is scheduled to turn himself in today.

In a statement through their attorney, Roderick Meddow, the Dials and Harper denied the slavery and flogging charges.

"These men absolutely deny that they are guilty of peonage or flogging," the attorney said.

The cases against the farmers, all of whom were described as being "well-fixed" financially, were investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

J. M. Lopez, agent in charge of the Birmingham office of the FBI, said the investigation is "substantially complete."

## 'Spring' From Jails

Lopez said the investigation disclosed that Negroes were sprung from jail by fines being paid and then forced to work out the fines on one of the Dial farms.

The Dials own large farms in the rich farming section of Sumter County near the Mississippi line. They are about 20 miles from the nearest town of any size.

The indictment said that one of the Negroes pressed into farm slavery died when he was caught

and beaten after he ran away.

The Negro, Herbert Thompson, was bailed out of a Lauderdale County, Miss., jail by Fred Dial, the indictment said.

Thompson ran away but was caught and brought back about May 7 of this year.

Fred and Oscar Dial took Thompson to Fred Dial's farm and there Fred ordered another Negro to beat the escapee, the indictment said.

## Others Accused

When the Negro refused, Dial tied Thompson over a bale of hay and beat him with a rope, the

indictment went on. Others also took part in the beating.

A 16-year-old tenant, not indicted because he is a juvenile, held a shotgun on others Negroes while they were forced to beat Thompson, the indictment said.

Thompson died two days after the beating, the indictment said.

The indictment charges that the beatings and peonage have been going on for several years.

Matthew Williams, who was released in Mississippi in December, 1951, investigators he was beaten by three of the Dials and Harper that same month.

## Beating Charged

He said he was tied hand and foot in a automobile and whipped after his pants were torn.

The indictment charges that Fred, Oscar and Grady Dial took part in this beating with Harper.

Williams said he was taken by truck to a highway and released

and told not to say anything about what had happened.

In July this year, after an investigation of the cases was underway, Williams was visited by Fred Dial and again told not to say anything about the beating, the indictment said.

A third victim, Coy Lee Tanksley, said he was released from jail at Meridian and taken to the Dial farms after Oscar Dial paid his fine.

The indictment charged that Dial tied Tanksley "about a week later" in January of this year and beat him with a lariat.

## Face Peonage Count

The U. S. attorney's office in Birmingham said all the men are charged with peonage and with conspiring to violate the civil rights of persons.

THE 14 PERSONS were placed in the Jackson County Jail at Scottsboro, the indictment continued. Deputy Sheriff Manning "went to the jail cell and told everyone that if they would pay off for being drunk they could sign their own bonds and have a week to pay their fines and further that everyone present would have to agree to that," according to the indictment.

Sheriff Sebring was then said to have gone to the home of Alfred Ivey, and to the home of

inct severe and harsh punishment by beating.

# Jackson sheriff, five deputies indicted by U. S.

Sheriff Lawrence Sebring of Jackson County and five men who were his deputy sheriffs have been indicted by the Federal Grand Jury here

on charges of depriving 14 residents of their civil rights.

The defendants are charged with arresting the 14 persons at a residence on Feb. 2, 1952, and charging them with the ownership of moonshine whisky.

Two of the residents arrested were beaten up in an automobile, according to the indictment made public by U. S. Atty. John H. Jr.

The defendants, in addition to Sheriff Sebring, are Franklin Ardis, now a highway patrolman; Lonnie Otis Grider, James L. Nevels, Sam William Manning and Charles Robert Mayo.

THE OFFICERS are charged with going to the home of Albert Corbett "at or near Fackler" on or about Feb. 2, 1952, and charging the people there with violation of the prohibition law.

"Less than one pint of moonshine whisky" was found at the home and the charge of violating the prohibition law was brought against the 14 persons when they failed to claim ownership of the whisky, according to the indictment.

After everyone present refused to claim ownership of the whisky, Deputy Sheriff Mayo made the statement: "Just arrest the whole damn bunch," the indictment stated.

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William Day, two of the persons named in the indictment as having been mistreated and put in an automobile, occupied by Nevels, T. R. Chance, Jarrett Corbett, Robert Holt, Roy O. Wilson, Elzie Williams, and A. Porter, then drove toward Scottsboro, where the automobile was Louis Holt, Floyd Holt and Lee

deputies used "other instruments" besides their "hands, fists and feet" in beating up Ivey and Day. The defendants, all of whom were present at the hearing today and were protected by the 14th Amendment, are charged with depriving the 14 individuals of rights, privileges and immunities secured to them by the 14th Amendment and protected by the Constitution of the U. S.

This amendment protects citizens from "illegal assault and battery in custody." The amendment also protects citizens

of Charlton, were released under bond.

Sheriff Sebring declined comment when he was questioned by a Birmingham News reporter at the time Sebring appeared to post bond.

per, the indictment stated. The three deputies were charged with kicking the two men in addition to beating them in other ways. The other 12 persons arrested, according to the indictment, were Walter Corbett, Albert Corbett, William Holt, Robert Holt, Roy O. Holt, Sam Wilson, Elzie Williams, and A. Porter. The indictment stated that the

against punishment without due process of law and gives them the right to be tried by due process of law.

Two of the defendants, Mayo and Manning, are currently serving as deputies in Jackson County.

# Hearings Postponed On Motion To Dismiss Ala. Peonage Case

Federal Judge Seybourn H. Lynn postponed hearings on a motion to dismiss charges against seven farm owners charged with keeping gross ~~and~~ <sup>164 Ala</sup> virtual slavery.

Judge Lynn passed the hearings until next Friday at the request of Defense Attorneys who had claimed some 30 grounds—notably lack of evidence for dismissal of the Federal Grand Jury peonage indictment.

The men—all members of the same family—were charged with forcing Negroes into a state of virtual slavery by paying jail fines for them, then forcing them to work out the fines on the family's farms in lush, rural Sumter County, Ala.

The bizarre story of alleged peonage was uncovered on September 9, when six of the defendants surrendered to U. S. Marshall Pervis Dial at Birmingham. The seventh surrendered the next day.

## CHARGE MADE

The indictment charged that Negroes were beaten, whipped, and deprived of civil rights over a period of several years.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation began probing the case after the death of a Negro, Herbert Thompson, in Sumter two days ago. At the defendants when investigators heard reports that Thompson had died from beatings he received after trying to run away from the farms.

The death, however, was declared to be the result of natural causes.

The seven men, now free on \$1,000 bond each, are: Oscar, Fred, Robert, Grady, Arnold and Lindsay Dial, and Charles Harper, of Porterfield, Miss., who is related to the Sumter County family by marriage.

# 6 INDICTED

## Charged With Beating Men They Held On Several Farms

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — (INS) — Five Alabama men and one Mississippian surrendered yesterday to U. S. Marshalls in Birmingham after indictments were issued charging them holding Negroes in slavery.

The men, five of them brothers, gave themselves up to U. S. Marshall Pervle Dodd. Another man, a sixth brother, is scheduled to surrender to Dodd Thursday.

J. M. Lopez, special agent in charge of the Birmingham FBI office, identified the men as:

Oscar Edwin Dial and his brothers Fred, Grady, Robert and Arthur, all of Sumter County, Ala., and Charles Harper, of Porterville, Miss.

Lindsay Dial is supposed to surrender today.

Lopez said the indictments include 12 counts, alleging that the Dial brothers and Harper held several Negroes in conditions of slavery and peonage. One kidnapping charge also is involved, alleging that a Negro was taken from Porterville, Miss., against his will.

Lopez said the prisoners also were charged with beating and trapping the Negroes when they had on several farms around Boyd, Ala., in Sumter County. One Negro, identified as Herbert Monk Thompson, is alleged to have died as the result of beatings he received after trying to run away from the captors.

The indictments charge that the defendants paid fines for the Negroes, then took them to Sumter County against their wills to work off the debts.

INDICTED ON twelve counts, which included the charges of "holding in peonage," "kidnapping," "involuntary servitude," "slavery," and "denying civil rights," were Oscar E. Dial, 34;

Fred N. Dial, 25; Grady C. Dial, 28; Lindsay W. Dial, 43; Robert M. Dial, 44; Arnold Dial, 27, and Charles Harper.

The Dials are all blood relatives, and Harper is married into the Dial family.

## Peonage Trial Set For B'ham

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Alabamians were wondering this week if Simon Legg, fabled taskmaster of pre-Civil War lore, was really dead after seven white farmers, a sheriff, and five deputies, were charged with violating the civil rights of Negro and white citizens.

The accused men were indicted by a Federal grand jury here last week after the Federal Bureau of Investigation produced evidence against them.

The farmers, well-to-do Sumter County landowners, were accused of springing Negroes from Mississippi jails and bringing them across the state line to work on a large plantation.

The indictment charged that Herbert Thompson, bailed out of the Lauderdale (Miss.) jail by Fred Dial, fled the farm, but was caught, tied over a bale of hay and flogged. Thompson later died.

Another Negro, Matthew Williams, who was freed in Mississippi in December, 1951, told探者 that he was tied hand and foot, had his pants stripped from him in a clubhouse, and was flogged by Fred, Oscar, and Grady Dial and Harper.

A third victim, Coy Lee Tanksley, alleges that he was beaten with a lariat.

**SUMTER COUNTY** Solicitor Marshall McConnell Jr. said in Birmingham on Sept. 10, that the Dials were "just poor, ignorant boys . . . I am sorry they find themselves in such a predicament."

The Dials' trial will be held in Birmingham, instead of in Tuscaloosa, but no reason has been advanced for the change of venue.

The other civil rights case involves Jackson County Sheriff Lawrence Sebring and five of his deputies: William Franklin Ardis, now a highway patrolman; Lonnie Otis Grider, Sam Williams Manning, James L. Nevels, and Charles Roberts Mayo with violating the rights of fifteen persons, all of whom are presumably white.

The officers are accused of nabbing fifteen persons on Feb. 2, 1952 at Fackler, accusing them of owning moonshine whisky and beating them. The officers are accused of violating the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

**MAYO and MANNING** are still serving as deputies in Jackson County.

The FBI said that beatings and peonage have been going on for several years in Sumter County which has a population of 17,946 Negroes and 5,664 whites. There are only fourteen qualified Negro voters in the county although there are 8,700 Negroes of voting age.

## Alabama

# 7 indicted on peonage charge by U.S.

*Afro-American*  
One of victims  
beaten to death  
probe discloses

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ANP)** — Seven white men, including four brothers and two cousins, were indicted here last week by a federal grand jury on charges of holding colored workers in slavery on a farm near Boyd, Ala.

Specified as victims were four men, including one who was beaten to death and three others who also suffered beatings.

Named on 12 counts through the work and investigation of U.S. Atty. Frank M. Johnson Jr. and J. M. Lopez, special agent in charge of the FBI in Birmingham, were the following white men:

Oscar E. Dial, 34; Fred N.

Dial, 25; Grady C. Dial, 28;

Robert M. Dial, 44; all brothers;

Arthur A. Dial alias Otto Dial,

27, and Lindsay W. Dial, 43,

cousins of the brothers; and

Charles Harper. Harper is from

Porterville, Miss., and the

Dials from the Dial farm.

**Man Killed in May**

According to the indictment, their death victim was Herbert Thompson, beaten May 7, 1953, and their other specified victims were Coy L. Tanksley, Matthew Williams and John H. Lowe.

To trap the colored men in "involuntary servitude and slavery," the indictment alleged, the white men paid fines of the men in Mississippi courts, then took them to the farm to work out the "debts."

The indictment had among its 12 counts charges of "holding in peonage," "kidnapping," "denying civil rights," "general conspiracy" and others.

### Stories of Suffering

Here are the stories of how the four colored victims suf-

fered at the Dial farm:

Thompson ran away from the farm, but was caught "on or about May 7, 1953." Fred and Oscar Dial captured him and returned him to the farm.

Holding a shotgun, Fred ordered a colored man, Cliff Fluker, to tie Thompson over a bale of hay, but Fluker refused.

Fred then tied Thompson around the neck, waist and feet, and backed by his shotgun and a pistol, forced several persons to "beat and whip" Thompson.

After the rope lashing was completed, Fred and a 16-year-old white boy, John Leon Rutledge, took the victim to "Gram Hosen's house." There he died May 9.

Tanksley was tied up and beaten in January after Oscar Dial had paid his fine and taken him from the county jail in Meridian, Miss. He was "forced" to go to the farm as the Dials intended to hold him as a "slave."

Several of the Dials and Harper in December, 1951, took off Williams's pants and tied him up and beat him on the floor of a club house in Sumter county. The indictment claims they conspired with others "to abduct Williams from Mississippi."

### No Murder Charges

The whites then left him on the Boyd-Porterville, Miss., highway and told him not to breathe a word about what happened to him.

Lowe was held in a condition of peonage and compelled to work in payment of a debt claimed," the indictment charges.

State officials said they have no plans to bring murder charges against any of farmers indicted on the Federal charges.

Sumter county Solicitor Marshall McConnell Jr. said the Government will "have a hard time proving" the case.

# Pneumonia, Not Beating, Caused Negro's Death

MOBILE, Ala. (INS) An autopsy report disclosed in Mobile Friday states that a Negro whose death touched off a probe of "slavery" on Alabama farms died as the result of pneumonia.

A federal indictment delivered on September 8 against six Alabama men and one Mississippian charged that the Negro, Herbert Thompson, died as the result of a beating.

The seven farmers, who owned land in ~~in~~ Sumter County in the rich "Black Belt" section of the state, were charged with holding Negroes in a state of peonage forcing them to work on the farms against their will.

The ~~autopsy~~ on Herbert Thompson was made by assistant state toxicologist Leon Grubbs at the request of state solicitor Tom Boggs, and was filed before the charges were made.

Grubbs said in his report of May 13th, that: *9-10-53*

"In my opinion Herbert Thompson died as the result of pneumonia. The superficial wounds on the front of his legs were inflicted a considerable period of time prior to death."

The indictments, which charged that the farmers paid jail fines for the Negroes, then forced them to work them off in a state of "slavery," alleged that Thompson died as a result of beatings he received after trying to run away from his "captors."

The charges were delivered against six members of the Dial family of Sumter County—Oscar, Fred, Grady, Robert, Arthur, and Lindsay Dial—and Charles Harper, of Porterville, Miss., who is related to the Dials by marriage.

## 7 Men Indicted For Slavery In Birmingham

### Farmers Are Charged With Beating Negroes, Involuntary Servitude

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peonage and compelled (Lowe) to work in payment of a debt claimed," the complaint said.

# Tenant Acts As 'Decoy' To Lure Other Negroes To Work

16J *Reb*  
by JAMES H. PURDY JR.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (SNS) —

An unscrupulous and entirely new technique is being employed by Arkansas plantation owners in their dealings with Negro tenant farmers of Crittenden, Mississippi and St. Francis Counties, according to a former tenant farmer of Turrell, Ark.

A Negro farmer living in the area is being used to lure the tenant farmers to the various plantations, the farmer said.

"He makes the contract with the prospective tenant farmer and secures what ever cash in advance the newly acquired tenant farmer

"The former tenant farmer charged that the plantation owner would assure the tenant farmer he would take care of them when settling up, and he would "back him up" in his field

He stated, "I came to town where I lived for six months in 1951. I farmed in Illinois, where I made 4 bales of cotton and came out \$200 in debt. When I moved from there the plantation owner took my 2 mules, plow, tools and good

When I got to Arkansas I found

Memphis, and a man was

ing for farmers. He told me I looked like a good man. He told me all about the farm and took me over to look at it. It looked all right to me, so I called my wife, who was in Chicago at the time and told her about the farm. She said, if I thought the man was all right and if the farm looked all right, go ahead and take it.

"This was in February. She came 3 days later. The white man advanced me \$75 to get started. The Negro Farmer was the boss but worked with us through the plantation supervisor. They had two mules, a cultivator and a tractor. I used the two mules and the plantation supervisor used the tractor. He broke my land with the tractor." "After I had moved to Arkansas I had an opportunity to talk with some of the people who lived there. We were at church, and some of them told me about the condition on the plantation. They said nobody got paid until the Negro farmer who act as a go-between had paid out of debt. his did not sound so good to me so I went to talk to

the supervisor.

"I told him what I had heard and asked him if it was true. He told me 'no,' and said, If you make anything I will see that you get it. Tell your wife not to worry.

"I was given my money on the first and 15th of each month. I received 10 dollars for every bale I picked. The plantation supervisor tried to get me to take more but I told him that would be enough.

"On December 16 I went to the store for my settlement, the book-keeper showed me my account, unpaid balance of \$450 for food for 6 months from March 1, to Aug. I took up no food in August. I was picking cotton in August.

After I had raised 15 bales of cotton, I asked about my pay.

plantation supervisor stated I would have to see the Negro farmer that engaged me as my contract was with him. And he was still in debt and they did not owe me any thing.

He also told me if I stayed on with him he would pay me the money; but if I moved he would not pay me anything.

I have a wife and three grandchildren to support so I moved without getting one dime for my family and my years work."

It was pointed out in the last issue of the Memphis World that more than 20 families residing in Crittenden, Mississippi and St. Francis County, Arkansas have complained of being held in peonage while working as tenant farmers in Arkansas.

None of these mistreated tenant farmers have solicited the aid of a Memphis attorney to fight their case.

Mass meetings by interested organizations are underway to assist them and help stamp out this maltreatment. The Memphis World learned late Wednesday.

Tenant farmers around Parkin, Turrell, Tyrona and Birdsong, Ark. that have fallen victims of this smart go-between Negro farmer are leaving at night to escape the wrath of the ruthless plantation owners.

# Say More Than 20 Families Held In Arkansas, Mississippi

16j By JAMES H. PURDY, JR.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (SNS) —

More than 20 families residing in Crossett, Mississippi and St. Francis County, Arkansas have complained of being held in peonage while working as tenant farmers in Arkansas.

A family that formerly lived on a plantation near Birdsong, Ark., stated that they moved to this plantation in 1951 and during 1952 they made 18 bales of cotton and ended up owing the plantation owner over \$250 for which he could give no explanation.

The family further stated that plantation owner or supervisor refused to settle with them for their 18 bales of cotton until they paid him \$200 that he claimed they owed him.

"We became fearful for our lives. We had been informed that the plantation owner would use his gun to whip his tenants and would have his associates to also whip the tenants, we left at 1:00 o'clock one morning." *curved*

The tenant former and wife said "we left behind all of our household goods and furniture that we bought prior to moving on his plantation."

The man then spoke and said "The supervisor on this plantation told me that the ~~men~~ coming from Memphis to pick cotton are hungry, they will pick for nothing, and if you don't pick, the Memphis ~~men~~ will pick for me for little or nothing. If you don't want to pick it, hit the road."

The man said the supervisor told him "a man called and said you wanted to move. I told him—don't send a truck for you until he sends \$200 or more before you can touch your furniture. I don't have time to talk to you." He then closed the door of his office.

"He stated later that he was going to run us off the place."

The tenant farmer and his wife repeated that the supervisor kept his own books and never gave receipts.

They had in their possession, a settlement for 16 bales of cotton for which they had been paid \$11.00. They further stated that they had received \$40.00 a month from March thru July and should not have owed over \$200.00.

The man stated they worked 90 days and were to be paid \$4.00 per day, and they did not receive one dime.

## NAACP Goes To Bat

# Fights For Tenant Farmers

mid-south Negro.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (SNS) —

The Memphis branch of the NAACP during its regular meeting here Sunday assumed the responsibility of underwriting and sustaining justice for the complaining tenant farmers of the tri-state area.

Most of the complaints came from the tenant farmers of the Eastern Arkansas area from farms around Turrell, Parkin, Tyronza, and Birdsong, Ark.

James H. Purdy, Jr., editor of the "Memphis World," the first paper to carry ~~an~~ account of the peonage-like technique that has been employed against the eastern Arkansas tenant farmers, related some of his finding from personal interviews with the complainants.

"The supervisor would bring along his gun and blackjack daily and show it during the supervising of the work on his plantation."

During 1932, it was rumored there were peonage cases existing near Westover, Arkansas. This recent flareup of apparent peonage cases reaches a new low in farming coercion.

Friends and relatives of the maltreated tenant farmers, that are leaving Arkansas by sight, are trying to rehabilitate them in other areas where they will not be held in peonage or harassed.

Others are soliciting help to give legal counsel and assist in seeing that justice is accorded the tenant farmers.

It was pointed out that most of the complaints are emanating from tenant farmers residing in Parkin, Turrell, Tyrone and Birdsong, Ark.

They stated they were told they could not move their household goods until the plantation owner had been paid in full.

Atty. J. F. Estes stated he had been swarmed with complaints from the tri-state area concerning illegal and unethical practices of landlords. And said the gross indiscretion is being applied with a mass determination of dethroning the Negro's economic opportunity on the mid-south farm and that thorough and complete investigation will be made by the NAACP nationally and locally.

Attys. J. F. Estes and B. L. Hooks, legal counselors of the Memphis chapter were directed to co-ordinate a joint meeting of the Tenn.-Ark.-Miss. Conferences for the purpose of solidifying efforts in bringing to close a dastard infringement of economic freedom of the

# Tenant Acts As 'Decoy' To Lure Other Negroes To Work

By JAMES H. PURDY JR.

An unscrupulous and entirely new technique is being employed by Arkansas plantation owners in their dealings with Negro tenant farmers of Crittenden, Mississippi and St. Francis Counties, according to a former tenant farmer of Turrell, Ark.

A Negro farmer living in the area is being used to lure the tenant farmers to the various plantations, the farmer said.

"He makes the contract with the prospective tenant farmer and secures what ever cash is advanced to the newly acquired tenant farmer."

"The former tenant farmer charged that the plantation owner would assure the tenant farmers he would take care of them and when settlement time came he would 'back-track' on his word.

He stated, "I came from Chicago where I lived for 11 months. In 1951 I farmed in Cardis, Miss., where I made 8 bales of cotton and came out \$290 in debt. When I moved from there the plantation owner took my 3 mules, plow tools

but no household goods. I was allowed to keep my pigs and a cow.

"He also told me if I stayed on with him he would pay me the

"The way in which I went to money; but if I moved he would not

farm in Arkansas, was like this: I pay me anything.

was in the employment office in Memphis, and a man came in look children to support so I moved

ing for farmers. He told me I look without getting one dime for my

ed like a good man. He told me all family and my years work."

about the farm and took me over It was pointed out in the last is- to look at it. It looked all right to sue of the Memphis World that

me, so I called my wife, who was in more than 20 families residing in

Chicago at the time and told her Crossett, Mississippi and St. Fran

about the farm. She said, if Icis County, Arkansas have com- thought the man was all right and plained of being held in peonage

if the farm looked all right go while working as tenant farmers in

ahead and take it Arkansas.

Some of these mistreated tenant

"This was in February. She came farmers have solicited the aid of a

3 days later. The white man ad-Memphis attorney to fight their

vanced me \$75 to get started. The case.

Negro Farmer was the boss but Mass meetings by interested or-

worked with us through the plan-ganizations are underway to assist

station supervisor. They had two them and help stamp out this mal-

mules, a cultivator and a tractor. It treatment, the Memphis World

used the two mules and the planta- learned late Wednesday.

tion supervisor used the tractor. He Tenant farmers around Parkin,

broke my land with the tractor." Turrell, Tyrone and Birdsong, Ark.

"After I had moved to Arkansas that have fallen victims of this

I had an opportunity to talk with smart go -between Negro farmer are

sci of the people who lived there leaving at night to escape the

We were at church, and some of wrath of the ruthless plantation

them told me about the condition

on the plantation. They said no-

body got paid until the Negro

farmer who act as a go-between had

paid out of debt. his did not sound

so good to me so I went to talk to

the supervisor.

"I told him what I had heard

and asked him if it was true. He

told me 'no,' and said, If you make

anything I will see that you get it.

16j 1953

GEORGIA

## 2 White Men Arrested In 16j Gia Peonage Case

Federal grand jury indictments were returned here Monday against two Newton County white men who are charged with arresting a Negro and compelling him to work on a farm owned by another in payment of a debt the man is alleged to have owed.

The indictment, returned against Carter Robertson and Robert A. Kitchens, charges in its three counts that one Anderson, William Hart, a Negro, was arrested in June, 1951 and "compelled to labor against his will on a farm operated by Robertson in satisfaction of a debt claimed by the defendant to be due him from Hart."

### HELD IN "PEONAGE"

The charges further state that Hart was held on the farm in a "condition of peonage" for 18 days listed as June 11, 1951 through June 30, 1951.

Hart's alleged debt at the time of his first arrest amounted to \$100. The record says that after Hart worked 19 days on the Robertson farm, he came to Atlanta and secured a job with a Decatur steel firm.

### MAN RE-ARRESTED

When Hart was re-arrested at the steel firm on May 6, 1953 for the reason of returning him to the Robertson farm, the attention of the federal court was focused on the case as result of request for investigation by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The charge has been changed to peonage status because Hart was arrested under criminal rather than civil procedures.

## 2 Cotton Growers Fined On Peonage Charges

By HARRY BOLSER

Courier-Journal West Kentucky Bureau

Paducah, Ky., Oct. 27.—Two Fulton County cotton growers were fined \$500 each in Federal Court here today on a charge of holding a Negro farm hand in involuntary servitude.

Marvin G. Elam and his nephew, Arnold Elam, pleaded guilty to peonage charges in a surprise move. Last July the Elams pleaded not guilty before Judge Roy Shelbourne, and the jury that tried them failed to agree.

Arnold Elam's father, William E. Elam, brother of Marvin Elam, also faces a peonage charge. He was not in court because of illness.

The three men were accused of forcing Willie D. Moore to labor on the Elam cotton plantation near Hickman. Moore said he bought his food and lodging from the Elams and was paid only enough to cover room rent and board. Moore testified he fled to Memphis, but the Elams found him and returned him to the Fulton County farm.

It was the first peonage case tried in Federal Court here since the Civil War, according to court attaches. Peonage is a violation of the 13th Amendment of the United States Constitution.

A civil-rights violation charge against Corbett Bridges, Hopkinsville policeman, was dismissed. The U. S. district attorney advised the court that the prosecuting witness is not in the United States.

It was the second civil-rights case dropped by the Government. Both grew out of a federal-grand-jury investigation of Hopkinsville police and vice conditions in Hopkinsville. A similar charge against James Hooks, former Hopkinsville policeman, was dismissed yesterday.

An order issued yesterday by Judge Shelbourne, forfeiting to the Government the \$2,500 bond on which Bridges was at liberty, was set aside today. Bridges, who

failed to appear in court yesterday when his case was called, explained that he understood he was to answer the charge today.

Four Fort Campbell soldiers involved in the marijuana traffic pleaded guilty and were given two years each in the penitentiary. They are Jesus San Roman, Thomas Baldwin, Lewis Bancroft, and Oscar G. Obledo. A fifth soldier involved in the case, Sgt. James Edwards, also pleaded guilty and was given a three-year suspended sentence.

### Keeps Negro In Involuntary Peonage, Fined

PADUCAH, Ky.—(AP)—In a surprise move, two white cotton growers pleaded guilty to a charge of holding a colored farm hand in peonage and were fined \$500 each.

The cotton growers Marvin G. Elam and his nephew, Arnold Elam, last July had pleaded innocent of the charge. However, last week the two men reversed themselves and pleaded guilty to keeping Willie D. Moore in involuntary servitude.

Arnold Elam's father, William E. Elam, also faces the peonage charge. He was not in court because of illness.

In his complaint, Moore said he bought his food and lodging from the Elams and was paid only enough to cover room rent and board. Moore testified he fled to Memphis, but the Elams found him and returned him to the Elam farm in Fulton county here.

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## Two men fined \$500 Apos. American P., each in peonage case

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Father Accused, Too

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### Two Fined \$500 Each For Enslaving Negro

Paducah, Ky.—(CNS)—Two cotton growers were fined \$500 each this week after pleading guilty in Federal Court to charges of holding a Negro in slavery.

The victim, Willie Moore, said he was promised \$4. a day for work on the Elams' farm but drew only \$3. He fled to Missouri and then to Memphis but said he was sought out by Marvin Elam and his nephew, Arnold and returned to the farm where he worked for several months

afterwards in 1951 for nothing.

The father of Arnold Elam, now 53, faces trial on a similar count. The case marks the first peonage one tried in a Federal Court here since the Civil War.

# 'Slave Farm' Man Faces State Probe

By the United Press

ROCHESTER, Aug. 10. — An Atlanta, N. Y., labor contractor said he was to be questioned by State Labor Department investigators here today in connection with reports that 22 Brooklyn boys were "exploited" on an upstate farm.

Theodore Kelly admitted he hired the boys in Brooklyn for work on the farm of Arthur Belanger, Wayland, N. Y., but denied charges made by them of poor food and living conditions.

#### Denies Story.

Mr. Kelly also denied that the boys were told they would work on Long Island.

The youths, all Negroes between 14 and 17, said they were transported hundreds of miles from home and then were charged for food and had to sleep in a bed. They said they made no money.

Mr. Kelly said they would have received up to \$5 a day for picking beans and berries. He said each boy had a bed in a well-equipped building on the Belanger farm. It was reported the building burned down several days after the boys departed on foot for New York.

#### Talked to Mothers.

Mr. Kelly said he talked to several mothers of the boys and received their permission to take them to the farm.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation was reported to be interested in the case and the Steuben County district attorney's office was conducting an investigation, following the exposure of the situation last week by the World-Telegram & Sun.

# 'Slave Labor' camp owner faces prison

NEW YORK — Admitting that he hired several teen age boys without farm work permits, a farm labor contractor, who has been accused of running a "slave labor camp," faces prosecution by the attorney general.

The contractor, Theodore Kelly, 39, of Wayland, N. Y., appeared at a State Labor Department hearing into allegations that he shanghaied 24 boys from Brooklyn to a farm in upstate New York.

While denying conditions were as bad as they had been painted at the camp, Kelly admitted that he never heard of the child labor law, which requires work permits for children under 16.

#### Face's Sentence

For each violation of this act he faces a \$50 fine. In addition the Labor Department is investigating charges that Kelly withheld money from the boys.

If the charges are found valid, Kelly could be fined for the discrepancy in wages and fined up to \$1,000 or jailed for a year or both.

The owner of the farm, Arthur Belanger, has been quoted as saying:

"I been using it (the farm) as a labor camp for the n — s ever since the (1947). It wasn't no hotel but it was good enough even for a white."

The boys, 13 of whom are under 16, charged that Kelly recruited them in the streets last July 11, promising them jobs at \$10 a day on a Long Island farm.

Instead, they said, he loaded them into his truck and took to upstate New York where they were reportedly housed five to a cot in a shack, and forced to pay so much for food and lodging that they had nothing left.

After four days, the boys walked and hitch-hiked home, where they told their stories to the NAACP which demanded an investigation.

# 22 BOYS ESCAPE; SEEK PROBE OF SLAVE FARM

## Duped into being hired

food than earnings  
Charged more for

BROOKLYN—The NAACP has called on the FBI to investigate an alleged "slave camp" farm in upstate New York. Some 22 teen-agers youths were duped into being hired as farm workers and then forced into five days of slave labor before escaping.

Norman Johnson, NAACP attorney, called in the FBI after the tired, hungry youths straggled back to their parents after walking and hitch-hiking nearly 150 miles. *Sat. 8-15-53*

FBI agents were asked to explore the possibilities of kidnapping charges against the men who were said to have "hired" the boys, since they were transported across state lines in being taken to the farm.

### Incredible Story

The incredible story of modern slavery in New York, reportedly began on July 22 when the 22 youths, whose ages ranged from 14 to 17 years, were picked up in Brooklyn by two men who offered them good paying jobs to work on a farm in nearby Long Island.

Later that night the boys were taken aboard a bus, but instead of heading for Long Island, the bus passed through the Holland Tunnel and into New Jersey, they reported.

When the alert youngsters inquired about this, they said the quired about this, they said, the best route to take to the farm at night.

### 150 Miles Away

After riding all the night, the youngsters say they were put to work the next day picking ber-

ries on a farm near Wayland, N.Y., some 150 miles from New York City.

As the days went by and the youngsters slaved at the hard work, they say they found that they were being charged so much for meals and what little sleep they could get in the shacks in which they lived that they were not making any money at all.

When they told their "employer" they wanted to quit, they state, they were told that if they quit they would have to walk home.

The plucky youngsters say they stuck it out a few more days and then decided to take the long way home—by walking.

### Encounter Hardships

They set out together on the night of July 27 and there followed a tale of hunger and hardships which reads more like fiction than truth—except it was very much truth to the unlucky youths.

Three of them found an old bicycle and tried to use it in relays. Once in a while they were able to get hitch rides for short distances.

But in the main they had to walk it out. Suspicious police in one of the small towns arrested three of the youths and fined them \$10 each.

### Fates Lucky Break

This proved to be a lucky break, however, for the police notified their parents and this started the round-up of all the boys.

One of the youths, Albert and a couple of his buddies nearly starved, eating sardines and apples on the three-day walk home.

One of the boys collapsed of malnutrition when arrested.

Fifteen-year-old William Baldwin of 241 Moore st. said many times along the way they begged for food and were turned down. Sometimes, however, it was given, he said.

Bus Followed

During their trek back to New York, the boys slept in barns; and Baldwin said one night they slept outdoors beneath some trees.

The youths stated that they were approached for the "jobs" by two colored men and that during the all-night ride to Wayland one of the men followed the bus in a Cadillac.

At the Wayland farm, they said, they were forced to sleep five in a shack and five to a bed. *Sat. 8-22-53*

The boy charged that they slept five in a bed and had only 75 cents a day left after paying for board and lodging. They stated that they were forced to walk hundred of miles back to Brooklyn. *Chas. C. Johnson*

Siegel declared that Kelly was "faulty" in failing to get working papers and permission to have the boys work on farms. He said that the department was checking further to see if there were any violations of the child labor and minimum wage laws.

## Probe Charges Of Boy Slave Camp

BROOKLYN — A State Labor department official in Rochester announced that a probe of the case of 22 Brooklyn boys alleged to have been involved in a "slave labor like" camp deal on an up-State bean and berry farm would continue. Parents of the boys ages 14 to 17, insisted that their children were exploited and demand that some one be made to pay.

Meanwhile, Assemblyman Alonso L. Waters, Republican of Medina, chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Migratory Labor, said he would order a separate investigation by his group. The Brooklyn Branch of the NAACP was also pressing for further action under Atty. Norman

Johnson of the Legal Aid committee.

Harold Siegel, an investigator, said Theodore Kelly, Negro labor contractor, who recruited the boys in Williamsburgh, was found to be "operating ~~under~~ in the clear." Both Kelly, and Arthur Belanger of Wayland, N. Y. on whose farm the boys worked denied the charges. *Sat. 8-22-53*

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# 22 Shanghaied Brooklyn Boys Flee Upstate Slave Farm



Harry Fields, 15.

William Britton, 15.

Ernest Salley, 16.

Reginald Matthews, 18.

James Hayes, 17.

William Baldwin, 15.

Albin Felder, 15.

Photos by Hiller.

## 22 Boys Flee Slave Farm

By ALLAN KELLER,  
Staff Writer.

Police and state farm bureau officials are looking for a farm in western New York where 22 Brooklyn boys worked like peons picking berries and beans for little or no money and from which they fled for home on in a mass trek that took them days.

The story is one of greed, of trickery, of meanness by many adults and of courage on the part of the boys.

It began on July 22 when two men approached kids in the neighborhood of Moore and Siegel Sts. and Lewis Ave. in Williamsburg and offered them good wages to work on a Long Island farm. The parents agreed to the arrangement. That evening they drove up and the 22 boys, all Negroes, between 14 and 17 years of age, got aboard for what they thought was a short ride out on the island.

Instead, the bus went through the tunnel to New Jersey and on through the night toward western New York. Once on the long trip the boys were given a sandwich apiece and soda pop to wash it down.

The next day they arrived at a farm near Wayland, N. Y., where they were put to work picking blackberries. Wayland is about 250 miles from New York City. It was hard work and the farmer shifted them to the bean patch, promising them good pay for the labor.

Days went by and the boys found that they were being charged so much for meals and for sleeping five in a bed in a shanty, that they made no money.

In a few cases, they made 75 cents a day.

Work—or Walk Home.

Some of the younger boys complained and asked to be taken home. They were told if they wanted to leave they'd have to walk. On the night of July 27 the boys decided to make a break for it and started walking to New York—hundreds of miles away.

Norman Johnson, a Brooklyn attorney and official of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, told the World-Telegram and Sun that the boys had a tough time of it. Few persons offered to give them a lift, and they got hungry as they trudged along Route 20.

At Auburn some of the boys were noticed by police, who learned the story and notified some of their families in Brooklyn. But the majority of the boys kept on hiking toward Albany.

Albin Felder, 15, of 237 Moore St., told this writer that he and several of his closest buddies got along on a couple of cans of sardines and apples picked along the road.

"We were starving," he said today in his home. "We'd been eating sardines, sandwiches and soda pop on the farm and it wasn't very filling. By the time we'd been walking three days we were really hungry."

"I had 10 cents and when we got to Sharon Springs I called my mother collect and she got a car and they drove up and got us."

While the youngsters were strung out along the highways between Auburn and Albany, New York Police, the Brooklyn district attorney's office and the NAACP started investigations which as yet are nowhere complete. There was

a strong possibility that the FBI will be asked in, since the boys were taken out of New York into New Jersey, thus making the shanghaeing technically kidnaping because state borders were crossed.

But all this while some of the boys were still trudging along the roads trying to make their way back to Williamsburg.

William Baldwin, 15, of

Moore St., said two Negro men had handled the arrangements and that all through the night on the trip to Wayland one of them had followed the bus in a Cadillac.

"We thought things were screwy when we went through the tunnel," said William. "But the driver said it was a better way to go at night."

"We worked like dogs in the berry patches and it was hard to get any picked. It was a little easier in the bean fields, but the place where we slept wasn't any better than a chicken coop really."

The Baldwin boy said that many times on the way home when he and his companions asked for food or a lift they were turned down, but that "once in a while the white folks were real nice."

"What got us down," said Albi Felder, "was the distance. We knew when we were bucketing along in the bus that we were covering a lot of territory, but man, it was something different when we were on foot."

"We'd get up to the top of one hill and there'd be another on the other side. And apples ain't rightly good in place of home cooking. Your stomach sort of rubs together as you walk when there ain't anything in it but apples."

Three of the boys found an old bicycle, one of their friends said, and hoped to use it in a sort of shuttle service to speed the trio home. Police in one of the small cities along the way became suspicious and arrested them. While the three were in the police station one of them collapsed of malnutrition.

These boys were fined \$10 each. But in the long run they thought their arrest was good luck because their parents were notified and drove all night to get them and

pay the fine.

"We didn't have any bad luck like that," said Billy Baldwin, "but it wasn't no picnic hiking from Wayland clear to Sharon Springs. We got a few lifts, but mostly we just walked. We slept in barns and once we slept outdoors under some trees. I guess we'd have made it home, but it was sure good to see the folks and not have to keep on."

Albin nodded in agreement.

"When you live in Brooklyn you don't rightly know how much distance there is in the world," he said. "But man, we know now."

# One Million, Children Under Social Security

More than a million children under 18 years of age are now receiving monthly social security insurance payments, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has reported. Payments for children amounted to \$1 million dollars for the month of July.

About 85,000 of the children are dependents of men or women who receive old-age insurance payments, and approximately 918,000 of them receive payments as surviving dependents of deceased parents. Most of those who receive survivors insurance payments are from families in which the father has died. Some, however, had been dependent on working mothers, on step parents, or on adopting parents.

The amount of each benefit depends on the average earnings of the person whose work was covered by the social security law. The average payment to a child is \$30.44 a month. Maximum payment for a family group is \$168.75 a month.

Where children are entitled to monthly payments because of their father's earnings, their mother, regardless of her age, may get payments if the children are in her care. If there are no children the wife of a retired person or the widow of a deceased worker may get monthly payments only after she reaches 65. Children of a retired person do not receive payments if the retired parent goes back to work, but children entitled to survivors insurance benefits continue to receive the payments even if the surviving parent goes to work or remarries.

Social security checks for a child are usually made payable to an adult for the use of the child. The department estimates that 99 per cent of children's benefits are paid to one or the other of the child's parents. Some benefits for children are paid to other near relatives or to their legal guardians.

Monthly payments under old-age and survivors insurance began in 1940 with children whose parents died in that year, and a few whose parents started receiving old-age insurance payments then, have now been receiving monthly checks for nearly 14 years. Since they can continue to receive the payments until they are 18, are married, or go to work, some of them may re-

ceive the payments for several more years.

In the nation at the end of June, a total of 56 million people were receiving old-age and survivors insurance benefits at a monthly rate of \$233 million.

## Congress May Refuse To Cancel Increase In Social Security Tax Next January

WASHINGTON, June 21 (AP)—Key lawmakers raised strong doubts today that Congress will approve President Eisenhower's request to cancel a scheduled billion dollar-plus increase in social security taxes.

Some Republicans and Democrats said they feared the President's plan would undermine the financial strength of the social security system aimed at providing retirement or death benefits for 60 million workers.

They added the administration itself now seems lukewarm and is not inclined to push hard for the proposal, advanced by Eisenhower in his special tax message to Congress on May 20.

Under current laws, employers and workers covered by social security each pay into the system 1½ per cent of payrolls up to \$3,500 a year.

This payroll deduction tax is scheduled to jump automatically to 2 per cent on both workers and employers—to a total of 4 per cent next Jan. 10.

Eisenhower, in his congressional message and in a radio broadcast to the nation, noted that the social security reserve fund now totals about 18 billion dollars. He said this seems adequate, since income exceeds benefit payments, and workers "in simple justice" should be spared the scheduled increase.

Both Democrats and Republicans on the House Ways and Means Committee, the group that must start all tax bills through Congress, expressed concern over the President's plan.

Rep. Curtis (R-Neb), chairman of a social security subcommittee, said "I'm inclined to think the increase should not be cancelled until or unless the administration develops more facts to justify it."

Curtis said several Republicans on the committee join in at least tentative opposition to Eisenhower's proposal. He added he has "serious doubts" whether the postponement will get out of the ways and means committee.

### Demos Opposed

Several Democrats said they expect Democratic members to be almost solidly against it.

Rep. Kean (R-NJ) a strong Eisenhower backer who has differed sharply with Curtis on social se-

By CHARLES F. BARRETT

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## 3 Million Retired Workers in Nation Get Social Security Payments

The number of retired workers in the period since 1950 than they were in the period from 1937 to 1950.

Second, the highest annual earnings that could be counted toward Social Security benefits prior to 1951 were \$3000, while after that year monthly wages or self-employment net income up to \$3600 could be counted.

Of the 531,000 insured workers who were added to the old-age beneficiary rolls in 1952, about one-third were just reaching the age of 65, Skorup said.

Some of these persons had retired because of age limitations in their employment; others in this group had left work because of illness or disability, it was pointed

### COVERAGE EXTENDED

He pointed out that many of those now receiving old age benefits were qualified because 1950 amendments to the law extended benefits in 1952 had continued in Social Security coverage to the gainful work after the age of 65.

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Several Democrats said they expect Democratic members to be almost solidly against it.

Rep. Kean (R-NJ), a strong Eisenhower backer who has differed sharply with Curtis on social security in the past, said in a separate interview that "certainly no facts have been presented so far to justify the postponement."

Kean, who is sponsoring several bills to extend social security coverage and liberalize benefits, said the proposal would weaken the financial soundness of the system.

"Unless we increase the taxes according to schedule," he added, "we're going to get in a position in the future where income will not be great enough to meet benefits."

Comparatively few persons receive the benefits now, but the number and size of payments will rise sharply as more and more persons covered by social security reach the retirement age of 65.

For all the 3,000,000 retired-worker beneficiaries the average old-age benefit being paid at the end of June was a little over \$50 a month.

Of that number, about 65,000 were receiving benefit payments based on employment or self-employment after 1950. Their average is about \$65 a month.

Skorup said this higher average was due to two main factors:

### HIGHER RATE EXPLAINED

First, earnings in general have been "much higher and regular"

# Social Security Reform Predicted

publicans are trying to "smash" the social security program.

WASHINGTON — Chairman Daniel A. Reed, New York Republican, predicted Thursday the House Ways and Means Committee will act quickly next year to "broaden and strengthen" the social security program.

Reed, in a statement, suggested three specific reforms in the system now providing death or retirement benefit coverage to 65,000,000 workers:

1—Extension of the system to cover millions "who have been arbitrarily denied this protection in the past." President Eisenhower has proposed extending coverage to about 10,500,000 doctors, lawyers, farmers and others. Reed avoided a commitment to any specific number or group.

2—An increase in the present \$25 minimum monthly retirement benefit "to provide a more realistic floor of protection for those now retired."

3—Liberalizing a present clause which denies retirement benefits to persons between 65 and 75 years of age who make \$75 monthly or more in employment covered by the system. About 1,400,000 otherwise eligible aged persons now are denied payments under this clause.

At the same time, Reed repeated his opposition to Eisenhower's proposal to cancel a scheduled Jan. 1 increase in social security taxes.

The rate jumps automatically from 1 1/2 to 2 per cent of wages up to \$3,000 annually, paid by workers and employers alike.

"I believe the American people want social security and are willing to pay for it," Reed said. "While I strongly favor tax reduction and believe that the people are entitled to a larger reduction than that now scheduled, I do not believe that such tax cut should be achieved at the expense of a sound social security system."

Reed's statement, generally fitting a pattern of recent pronouncements by GOP leaders, may have been designed to counter charges by several House Democrats that some Re-

local old-age assistance amounts to \$35 per month per case. With the beneficiaries covered by Social Security—and with the increase in minimum payments boosted to \$45—the net federal contribution to old-age assistance actually would be increased by \$10 over the present grant.

Mr. Curtis' bill would bring additional revenue to the trust fund set up for the program by requiring more individuals to pay the Social Security tax. Pointing out that only wage earners and self-employed people presently pay this tax, he said his measure will include a provision to extend coverage to persons whose sole income is from investments or rents.

Mr. Curtis said he favors maintaining the contributory principle of the present law.

## More Millions Would Gain by Old-Age Bill

By ROGER STUART,  
Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Rep. Carl T. Curtis (R., Nebr.), whose Ways and Means subcommittee recently conducted hearings on Social Security, revealed today the kind of amendments to broaden the program he will sponsor when Congress reconvenes next week.

Although Mr. Curtis has been criticized by labor officials and others—some of whom have implied he was an enemy of Social Security and charged that his "so-called study" of the system was rigged in an attempt to weaken it—the legislation he proposed today actually would liberalize the program in several ways.

### Would Raise Minimum.

Provisions include: (1) Immediate benefit payments for an additional 5,000,000 aged citizens; (2) increase of the minimum monthly benefit payments from the present \$25 to \$45; (3) extension of coverage to a number of occupations now excluded, and (4) liberalized eligibility requirements.

Mr. Curtis said his proposal is "different from any other current proposal designed to improve Social Security." One big difference is that his plan calls for abandoning the system of federal grants to the states for old-age assistance and aid to dependent children. By bringing the persons in the latter programs under Social Security, federal grants henceforth would be made unnecessary, he said.

### Over Billion a Year.

These two programs—OAA and ADC—now cost the federal government \$1,200,000,000 a year. The federal portion of federal-state-

# ALABAMA BILL BANNING UNION SHOP IS SIGNED

Montgomery, Ala., Aug. 28 (AP) — Gov. Gordon Persons today signed the bitterly disputed bill outlawing the union shop and in Kansas. In Wisconsin, a similar labor-management agreement is needed from two-thirds of employees voting, providing at

The bill makes it unlawful to least a majority of all employees require an employee to join and approve it.

*10/2*  
labor organization in order to Maryland has a public policy holding to [the] union shop sys-declaration against the union ten. It also prohibits the man-shop but does not prohibit it. mandatory checks of union dues.

Thus, it would outlaw the union shop, maintenance of membership, or any similar contract provisions which require union membership as a condition of employment.

#### Sends Message with Bill

In a message to the house of representatives, where the measure originated, Persons said he approved the bill "because I believe in free labor and free enterprise."

The governor's message, an unusual procedure when a legislative act is signed, was the first indication of Persons' decision on the highly controversial measure, which during its trip thru the legislature provoked one filibuster after the other.

What effect, if any, the bill would have on Interstate contracts was undetermined. Labor leaders predicted it would outlaw all union shop agreements regardless of the Taft-Hartley law.

#### Skips Interstate Contracts

The bill makes no mention of Interstate or intrastate agreements. It merely says it is against "the policy of the state of Alabama" to require union membership or nonmembership as a condition of employment."

Under the Taft-Hartley labor relations law the union shop is permitted except in states which decide otherwise. Thirteen other states have adopted laws banning the union shop similar to Alabama's.

These states are Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Nebraska, Nevada, North Caro-

lina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

#### Restrictions in Four States

In addition, four other states have restrictions on those labor-management contracts which require a worker to be a union member in order to hold his job.

Under Colorado law a union shop is permitted if authorized in an election by two-thirds of the employees. Approval of a majority of employees is required outlawing the union shop and in Kansas. In Wisconsin, a similar labor-management agreement is needed from two-thirds of employees voting, providing at

The bill makes it unlawful to least a majority of all employees require an employee to join and approve it.

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# High Court rules pickets can't bar right to work

Power Co. the right to build and operate the project.

Chapman fought for government construction.

Justice Frankfurter delivered the 6-3 decision.

Justice Douglas wrote a dissenting opinion in which Chief Justice Vinson and Justice Black joined. Justice Clark wrote an opinion concurring with the majority.

WASHINGTON, March 16—(AP)—The Supreme Court decided today that states may forbid labor union picketing if the picketing conflicts with state right-to-work laws.

The 7-2 ruling upheld an injunction issued by a Richmond, Va., court against the peaceful picketing of a school construction job there.

3-16-53  
The contractor contended the union's objective was to compel cancellation of a contract with a non-union plumbing subcontractor.

Virginia law says the right to work may not be denied because of membership or non-membership in a labor union. It declares illegal any agreement between an employer and union by which a non-union worker is denied the right to work.

Justice Burton wrote the court's majority opinion, with Justice Douglas offering a dissenting opinion. Justice Black noted a dissent.

The Richmond court in addition to issuing the injunction awarded \$190 damages to the general contractor, Graham Brothers. The injunction halted picketing of the George Washington Carver School project by agents of Local Union No. 10 (AFL), United Assn. of Journeyman Plumbers and Steamfitters.

The union appealed unsuccessfully to the Supreme Court to overturn the city court. The appeal said the purpose of the picketing was to communicate information, under protection of the federal constitution's guarantee of free speech.

The union related that its picket carried a sign which read, "This is Not a Union Job." It insisted no unlawful demands were made on the general contractor or any subcontractor.

IN ANOTHER DECISION the Supreme Court upheld the Federal Power Commission in licensing a private company to build a multi-million hydroelectric plant on the Roanoke River at Roanoke Rapids, N. C.

The decision ended a four-year dispute between former Secretary of the Interior Chapman and the commission over the license. It gives the Virginia Electric and

16 L 1953

LOUISIANA

# POLICE CHECKING BEATING REPORT

Wed. 7-29-53

Truck Driver Says Five

Were Union Men

New Orleans, La.

Police Tuesday were investigating a complaint by a New Orleans truck driver that he was beaten Monday by five Negro men who identified themselves as members of a Teamster's local which has been involved in a building materials strike here for several weeks.

Second District police said George Hill, 43, 3317 S. Claiborne, told them he was driving a truck rented by his brother, Herbert Hill, of the Claiborne address, on N. Claiborne about 12:30 p. m. Monday when he was stopped at Milan by the five men in a black sedan.

Hill said one of the men got into the cab of the truck with him and the other four got into the back. The man in the cab, he said, ordered him to drive out Washington ave., and when they reached a "lonely neighborhood" near some railroad tracks, ordered him to stop.

The men then gave him a beating, Hill said, identifying themselves as members of the union which is on strike and telling him they were "fixing me so I wouldn't haul building materials any longer."

Hill said they left him in the truck and he lost consciousness. Later he drove the truck to his residence, he said. He said he hadn't "reported the alleged attack until Monday night because he was "too weak and sick."

16 L 1953

NEW YORK

## Say Mobs To Take Over In Dock Strike

NEW YORK — (TNS) — Waterfront investigators declared that the most feared mobsters on New York's crime-infested docks were joining forces to work for a paralyzing port-wide strike of longshoremen beginning Oct. 1.

The New York City anti-crime committee said that perhaps the most significant development in support of this view was the sudden reappearance of gangster Ed McGrath as a player on the waterfront scene.

McGrath, a former organizer in the racket-ridden, now discredited International Longshoremen's Association, is a brother-in-law of the late John F. Dunn, waterfront terrorist and killer, who was executed for murder in 1949.

### MOST POTENT ON DOCKS

For many years the Dunn-McGrath mob was regarded as the most potent force on the sprawling waterfront, controlling piers in Manhattan's Greenwich Village area.

McGrath went "underground" in 1950 when the Kefauver Senate Crime Committee briefly turned the spotlight on dock racketeering.

At that time Joseph P. Ryan, president of the ILA and under indictment for stealing union funds, announced that McGrath had "resigned" as a union organizer.

In recent weeks, however, according to an anti-crime committee spokesman, McGrath has been in close touch with key waterfront mobs—the Mickey Bowers gang, which controls Manhattan's highest and busiest piers; ex-cop Nick Albert Acciatis, a rising waterfront power, and the notorious Anthony Anastasia in Brooklyn.

## Strike Slows Jet Turnout For War Needs

WASHINGTON, April 18 (AP) — A strike has cut down production of all that is warranted in the Cincinnati area.

The fastest type of jet fighter engines needed for the Korean air war during the past month, but as the issues up to a neutral party for yet the Pentagon seems unworried.

The strike halted production of but GE has refused. The company, the General Electric Company's now says it intends to wait it out, souped-up engine—the type sup-and the production loss is not critical to make U. S. Sabre jets. The amount of hourly rates equal to the Russian MIG. GE's paid before the strike began was Evendale, Ohio, plant near Cincinnati.

Asked if the walkout of 5,250 AFL and CIO workmen was reducing output of the speedy fighter planes, a Defense Department spokesman said today:

"We have not lost any aircraft production yet, but if it persists a few more weeks the situation could become critical."

Inquiry about the strike's effects was prompted by reports that the Defense Department had changed its mind about the seriousness of the work stoppage.

It was learned reliably that the department first told the Federal Mediation Service the strike was critical and should be settled at all costs. Later, however, the department told the mediation service it had overstated the urgency of the strike.

Several factors are involved. One is that GE is producing some of the speedy J47-27 engines at its

Lynn, Mass., plant.

Another is that the North American Aviation Company, the major producer of the finished Sabre jets, told the Air Force it has enough of the new jet engines to "last through June."

### Hints Scandal

However, another government official familiar with the situation said privately it was his opinion "there would be a scandal" because the Cincinnati strike has been permitted to go this long.

The mediation service has been watching the Ohio dispute closely, but in view of the latest word from the Pentagon that no serious engine shortage had occurred as yet, it has held up plans to bring company and union representatives to high-level meetings here.

Settlement efforts at Evendale have been desultory. The GE company predicted in publications dis-

tributed to employees well ahead of the March 16 strike that a walkout would occur. The company has offered to raise pay rates from 6 to 8 cents an hour, or an average of 7 cents.

The two striking unions, the AFL Machinists and CIO United Auto Workers, contend the offer is insufficient to match rates paid by other plants. GE says the raise is

not warranted in the Cincinnati area.

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The Evendale plant produces several types of jet engines, including those for bombers, of which there is apparently overabundant production.

The new fighter jet engine, which is the most critical item made at Evendale, puts out 5,800 pounds of thrust, compared with 5,200 pounds for previous models. This added power enables the Sabre jets to compete with the Russian MIG at all altitudes and speeds.

May become critical

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16m 1953

**Negro, White Musician Unions Vote Merger**

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 10 (UPI)—Negro and white musicians here have voted to merge into one union.

AFL Musicians Union Local 67, an integrated local, voted to merge with Local 47, an all-white union. Local 47 voted for the merger last month.

The end of segregation in Los Angeles locals is part of a nationwide drive by the union.

AFL MUSICIANS UNION LOCAL 67

**Just A Story Of One For All**

# **Musicians In Los Angeles End Separate Locals; Sell Quarters**

Spencer Johnson, Reb Spikes and others.

By HARRY LEVETTE

LOS ANGELES—(ANP)—Wind-  
ing up a pro and con argument  
that has gone on for several years,  
on the ending of what is consider-  
ed a Jim-Crow Musicians union, wider field and more employ-  
ment for colored musicians.

the club house at 1710 S. Central  
Avenue was put up for sale last  
week.

With large surrounding grounds,  
the two-story building has been  
the property of all-colored local  
767, which has recently been inter-  
grated into Local 47, formerly co-

It is a well-equipped establish-  
ment, with a large assembly hall  
and lounge on the ground floor,  
business offices, offices for the  
president, and the two secretaries.  
There are separate rehearsal  
rooms, both upstairs and down-  
stairs, kitchen and pantry. Out-  
side is a radio and barbecue pit,  
capable of entertaining large  
crowds as has long been the cus-  
tom in the past.

According to Paul Howard, for  
many years the business manager,  
proceeds from the sale will go  
into the treasury of Local 47. The  
colored musicians will still share  
the benefits of the assets they ac-  
cumulated as a separate local.

No report has come forth as to  
disposition of the office staff of  
the 767 club house. These besides  
Howard, have been Secretary Flor-  
ence Cadrez, and her assistant,  
Elmer Fain; Field representative,  
Baron Moorehead and Leonard  
Davidson.

Local 767 has played an impor-  
tant part in the history of local  
music. Some of the best known  
band leaders such as Lionel Hamp-  
ton, King Cole and others, did  
their first rehearsing at its quar-  
ters. All the noted traveling bands,  
had to work under its jurisdiction  
while in Los Angeles.

Some 30 years ago it was or-  
ganized at 12th and Central by

16m 1953

AFRICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS



LEADERS AT AFRICAN FEDERATION of Teachers (AFL) convention in Peoria, Ill., map plans for improvement of public school teachers salaries, working conditions and job security. Left to right, Mrs. Veronica B. Hill, vice-president of the A.F. of T. and mathematics teacher in the Samuel J. Green high school, New Orleans, La.; Miss Layle Lane, chairman of the fede-

tion's standing committee on democratic human relations and teacher of social science in Benjamin Franklin high school, New York City, and William P. Swan, A. F. of T. vice president and physical education teacher at Douglas elementary school of Gary, Ind. About 600 delegates from most states attended.

16m 1953

ALABAMA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

## Speaks At ASFL Convention



**CORNELIUS MAIDEN**—Vice-president of the Alabama State Federation of Labor is shown above addressing the federation's 51st annual convention which was held April 20-22 in Montgomery, Ala. Mr. Maiden and Jesse Thomas of Mobile, also a vice-president, named as a committee by the convention last Sunday, visited R. F. Finkney, AFL organizer, who is seriously ill at his home, 702 Wilkerson Street, Mobile, Ala. Mr. Maiden, organizer for the Chemical Workers of America (AFL), was a consultant at the three-day Career Conference which ends today at Morehouse College. The conference is jointly sponsored by the National Urban League.

# AFL SUPPORTS NEGRO LABOR'S ANTI-RED DRIVE

To Aid in War Against

R. C. AFL

Discrimination

16m Philadelphia, Nov. 1 [Special]

—Lewis G. Hines, national representative of the American Federation of Labor, told the Negro Labor committee here that the AFL is behind the committee's efforts to purge labor of Negro Communists.

Hines also pledged his organization's support of the committee's campaign to eliminate racial discrimination in labor.

He addressed about 150 delegates of the committee at their second annual conference in the Broadwood hotel. Other speakers included George Schermer, director of Philadelphia's human rights commission, and Clarence Mitchell, labor secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

#### Urge Strike Intervention

Michael J. Byrne, deputy to Philadelphia's Mayor Joseph S. Clark Jr., in extending the city's greetings, said that the new city charter here "gives all citizens equal rights to employment by this municipality."

The delegates passed a resolution urging President Eisenhower and the department of labor to intervene in a strike of some 1,500 sugar workers on plantations in St. James, St. John, La Fourche, Torrebone and West Baton Rouge parishes in Louisiana. The strike began this month.

The resolution charged that the plantation owners have threatened "to evict poorly paid workers from company owned homes" and have intimated that they would import "hundreds of Jamaican or illegal Mexican immigrants to break the strike."

#### Call for Support

President Eisenhower and the department of labor were urged to protect the rights of the sugar

workers to organize, and to enforce all protective labor laws. The resolution called on the delegates to go back to their unions and demand immediate "moral and generous financial support of the strikers."

"No un-American attempt by the plantation owners to use eviction, starvation or scab-herding," the resolution concluded, "shall be permitted to prevent the sugar workers gaining their just American rights."

The Negro labor committee was formed in March 1952, in New York City, at a conference of AFL and CIO delegates.

16m 1953

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, (AFL)

## Teacher's Union Outlaws Jim Crow Locals

PEORIA, Ill., Sept. 14— Segregation in any locals of the American Federation of Teachers Union, AFL, has been outlawed.

Action against Jim Crow locals came last week when delegates at the 36th convention of the federation voted 219 to 80 in favor of revising its constitution to end racism.

The revised provision says that any local guilty of "limiting its membership on account of race or color" will lose its charter.

A local in Boston submitted the resolution calling for the revision, after conceding that some segregation exists in certain locals of the union.

The only delegate to vocally oppose the revision was one from Atlanta, Ga.

The AFT was one of the first organizations to go on record as opposed to segregation in education. It filed a brief with the U. S. Supreme court in connection with the five cases now pending before the high tribunal.

In reiterating the group's stand on segregation in education, George S. Count of Columbia, said:

"Let us hope that the Supreme court will consign to the waste basket of history this time-honored practice of segregation."

"Let us hope the people of South Carolina (one of the anti-segregation cases originated there) will refuse to follow the counsel of their governor to abolish public schools rather than permit white and Negro to associate with one another in classrooms and on playgrounds."

Some 1,000 delegates attended the meeting.

9-19-53

16m

# A. F. L. TEACHERS BAR SEGREGATION

Federation Votes to Void Any  
Local's Charter in Nation  
That Permits Practice

GEORGIAN SEES EXPULSION

P. 31c

Is Told Time Will Be Allowed  
for Reform—Dr. Counts Says

Bias in U. S. Arms Kremlin

By GENE CURRIVAN

Special to The New York Times

PEORIA, Ill., Aug. 18.—The  
American Federation of Teachers,  
A. F. L., meeting here at its thirty-sixth annual convention, voted

today to ban racial segregation in its 400 local unions throughout the nation.

The delegates balloted, 219 to 80, for the amendment to the constitution and there was but one dissenting voice. That was from Emory S. Lunsford of the Atlanta, Ga., local, one of the oldest in the federation. He said that he knew the step would be taken some time but had hoped it would not come so soon. He voted for immediate expulsion.

Mr. Lunsford was advised that no locals would be expelled immediately and all would have ample opportunity to amend their constitutions.

The resolution noted that the federation was a leader among educational institutions and labor organizations in the fight against segregation.

Declaring that segregation still obtained in the federation it said that no local charter that defined or recognized jurisdiction on a basis of race or color or permitted the practice of such jurisdiction would be recognized as valid "and the practice of any local in limiting its membership on account of race or color shall render its charter void."

The amendment was introduced by the Boston Teachers Union, Local 66.

Governor Byrnes Criticized

Earlier in the day Dr. George S. Counts, Professor of Education at Columbia University, appealed for

an end to segregation in the public schools and discrimination against minorities. He asserted that otherwise Americans would take steps to play into the hands of Kremelin propagandists.

He expressed the hope that the hope of their programs was frowned upon by the United States Supreme Court. In many cases, he said, would "consign to the waste-basket" educators resort to smearing their history the practice of segregation. At the same time he charges

assailed Gov. James F. Byrnes of South Carolina for advocating the abolition of public schools in the nation's struggle to lead the preference to permitting white and Negro children to associate with one another in the same class treatment assumed a fateful urgency.

"One can only wonder," he said, "With vast resources and fanatical energy," he said, "the tiny oligarchy in the Kremlin is conducting a campaign of hate throughout the earth, and particularly in the regions inhabited by colored peoples, designed to convince all mankind that American democracy is a fraud."

In a long report to the convention, Miss Selma M. Borchardt, the federation's Washington representative, challenged investigators of subversion in education and the labor unions to work with the educators and the union leaders who, she said, already had shown that they could combat communism in their own ranks.

### Ouster of 4 Locals Cited

Miss Borchardt said that the Teachers Federation already had dropped four locals suspected of being Communist-dominated (two in New York, one in Philadelphia and one in Los Angeles) and was in a position to show investigators how it was done.

"Unfortunately some of the Congressional committees have not seen the value of conferring with the men and women who have always fought the Communists' role in our schools and organization," she declared. "They have instead asked those teachers who joined the Communist party and those who worked with them to speak as experts on how to fight Communists."

The teaching profession itself, she added, has the responsibility of cleaning its own ranks and can meet that responsibility.

The report assailed censorship in all its forms as belonging only to a totalitarian state.

Concerning revenue from tidal oil lands for educational purposes the report urged that emphasis be placed on those bills that would earmark specific funds for teachers' salaries. Miss Borchardt told the delegates there was now a shortage of 116,000 elementary school teachers and that because of the poor condition of schools one of every three pupils was being taught in buildings considered fire traps.

Arrogance Is Condemned

Arthur F. Gardner, member of

16m 1953

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

## Racial Rule Perils Locals For Teachers

Four state local unions of the AFL American Federation of Teachers were in danger of losing their charters Thursday night after the national convention of the AFL-AMT meeting in Peoria, Ill. passed a resolution to void the charter of any local in which membership is based on race or color.

Included were an estimated 2,000 teachers who belong to the Atlanta and Fulton County locals. The other local unions are in Savannah and Augusta.

Mrs. Dorothy Floyd, principal of Ed S. Cook school and president of Atlanta local No. 89, said the state union units will undoubtedly lose their charters unless changes are made in state law to permit Negroes to join the teachers' union.

Mrs. Floyd said it was her understanding that Negroes are prohibited from becoming members of the local unions by the state constitution.

# Carmen's Local 364 Admits 4

8 Others Given 10  
Days To Join Unit

6m WASHINGTON  
For the first time in 17 years, AFL Local 364, Brotherhood of Railway Carmen has abandoned its separation policy and admitted to its membership colored workers employed at the Washington Terminal here.

Relaxation of the long established policy came a time when the Carmen's brotherhood was under attack by non-union workers at the Union Station, and also by the CIO United Railroad Workers which is challenging the AFL union's jurisdiction over Terminal carmen.

The Brotherhood, which has a union shop contract with the Terminal, established an all-colored local No. 716, as a unit subordinate to the white local and in keeping with a provision of the union's national constitution, heretofore required that all colored employees in the Carmen's jurisdiction join the Jim-crow local.

## Three Admitted

Following conferences with the NAACP's Washington Bureau and Joseph Waddy, attorney, three men filed applications to Local 364 by registered mail. These men, Jesse L. Taylor, Jesse Reavis and Edward G. Shaw, were voted to the white local on Jan. 26.

Former announcement that they were admitted was not made until Jan. 28, when Waddy and Clarence Mitchell, NAACP Washington Bureau director, appeared at a hearing at the Terminal on behalf of William Scott, 48, of 4547 Eads st., ne, terminal employee who had received notice that he would be dismissed for failure to join the Carmen's union.

Scott testified that he had been a member of the segregated local but dropped out because it was inferior and discriminatory. Edward J. Hickey, counsel for the Brotherhood, then announced the union would accept Scott's application to the white local and that three colored men had already been admitted. Scott promptly accepted the offer.

At the hearing it was also

agreed that eight other colored employees who had received dismissal notices for failure to join the Jim-crow union would be given until Feb. 9 to apply to the white local.

About 300 workers have refused to join the segregated local. No action was taken by the Brotherhood to dissolve the colored local.

# Brotherhood Admits 3 Negroes

WASHINGTON—As the result of efforts by the Washington bureau of the NAACP, Local 364 of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen has, for the first time in seventeen years, admitted to its membership Negro workers employed at the Washington terminal here.

The brotherhood, which has a union shop contract with the terminal, established an all-Negro local, No. 716, a unit subordinate to the white local, in keeping with a provision of the union's national constitution, required that all colored employees in the Carmen's jurisdiction join the Jim-crow local.

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## Trainmen Brotherhood Accepts First Negro in Its Seventy Years

The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, which had excluded Negroes from its membership since its founding seventy years ago, has accepted a Negro member for the first time, it was announced yesterday by Edward W. Edwards, chairman of the New York State Commission Against Discrimination, 270 Broadway.

The Negro member, N. C. James, a dining car steward on the Pennsylvania Railroad, has been admitted to membership in J. F. McGrath Lodge 162, New York City, of the Brotherhood.

A commission official said that Mr. James, who sought admission to the Brotherhood, obtained the necessary sponsors and was voted into the lodge without opposition.

Previously, the commission had handled a case in which a dining car steward unsuccessfully sought admission to the Brotherhood, but in Mr. James' case, he was admitted without commission intervention.

### Trainman Cracks Brotherhood Bias

NEW YORK — A Pennsylvania railroad worker has become the first Negro to gain membership in the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, it was revealed last week by the New York State Commission Against Discrimination. He was identified as N. C. James.

### RR Brotherhood Finally Accepts Negro Member

NEW YORK (NNPA) — The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, which since 1884 has had a constitutional provision restricting membership to whites only, has admitted a colored railroad worker to membership. Edward W. Edwards, chairman of the New York State Commission Against Discrimination, announced last Wednesday.

According to the announcement, N. C. James, a colored dining car steward on the Pennsylvania Railroad, has been accepted as a member of J. F. McGrath Lodge 162, New York City, a subordinate of the brotherhood.

**A COMMISSION** official said Mr. James, who applied for membership in the brotherhood, obtained the necessary sponsors and was voted into the lodge without opposition.

Previously, the commission had handled a complaint in which a dining car steward was denied membership in the brotherhood, but it was unable to get a satisfactory adjustment.

**THE NEW YORK** State law against job discrimination makes it an unlawful practice "For a labor organization, because of the race, creed, color, or national origin of any individual, to exclude or expel from its membership such individual . . ."

In the case of Mr. James, he was admitted to membership in the brotherhood local without the assistance of the commission.

The brotherhood, at its first annual convention in 1884, adopted a constitutional provision which restricted membership to whites only. For years it has used its influence in an attempt to eliminate colored trainmen and get their jobs for white men, who were or could be members of the brotherhood.

# Rail Union Accepts First Negro in 70-Year History

*San Francisco, Calif., P. I. May 12, 1953.*  
NEW YORK—The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, an organization of more than 215,000 railroad workers which traditionally and by regulation has barred Negroes from membership for the past seventy years, has accepted a Negro member for the first time in its history, Edward W. Edwards, chairman of the New York State Commission Against Discrimination, announced last week.

Commissioner Elmer A. Carter announced that the unprecedented forward step had occurred in the course of dismissing a complaint brought before the commission against the J. F. McGrath Lodge 162 of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen of New York City by C. Edward Edmonson, of West Medford, Mass., presently employed as a dining car steward by the ~~Modern~~ and ~~Albany~~ Railroad, a subsidiary of the New York Central Railroad System.

During the course of the investigation of the complaint and the subsequent negotiations between the commission and the J. F. McGrath Lodge, Commissioner Carter explained, the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, through an election conducted by the Railroad Mediation Board, was displaced as the bargaining agent for the dining car stewards on the New York Central Railroad.

*May 17-53*

EDMONSON WAS admitted to membership in the American Railway Supervisors Association, Inc., which succeeded the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen as the bargaining agent.

Commissioner Carter said that the Negro who has now been admitted to membership in the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, W. C. James, is employed as a dining car steward on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The J. F. McGrath Lodge 162 of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen now has jurisdiction over dining car stewards on the Pennsylvania Railroad, the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, the Seaboard Railroad, the Atlantic Coast Line and the Reading Railroad, Commissioner Carter said.



ST. LOUIS, Mo. —(SNS)—  
TRAIN PORTERS MEET IN ST. LOUIS — Leaders of train porter groups in the South and West met in St. Louis for two days last week-end, for the purpose of mapping militant plans to fight off the efforts of powerful, organized white groups to take over these jobs which have been held by Negroes

since the railroads were first built. Shown above is a portion of the delegates to this important meet.

The Conference was called by A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. 95 per cent of the train porters of the nation are affiliated with that organization. In addition to Mr. Randolph, the group was addressed by Milton P. Webster of Chicago, T. D. McNeal of St. Louis, L. L. Mason of Denison, Texas, Wm. Heintz of Jonesboro, Ark., C. F. Gregory and Vernon C. Coffey of Kansas City.

Leaders attending the conference came from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Illinois and Colorado.

At the end of the Conference, leaders expressed confidence that plans unanimously adopted for the fight on the legal and economic fronts will result in saving these thousands of jobs for the Negro people — now and in the future.

In their original petition, the five porters named only the Sea-

board Air Lines Railroad as defendants in the suit. Samuel H. Gellman, attorney for the brotherhood, said the men wanted to be a defendant in the case so it could present the merits of the union's contract with the railroad. He explained that the union was a natural party in the suit.

The union shop agreement permits non-union workers to obtain jobs with the railroad, but they must join a union within 60 days or face loss of their employment.

The protesting parties contend that this requirement is a violation of their "natural right" to work. Virginia has many state and local officials who support this view in the current movement to destroy labor unions and cripple the labor movement.

Five porters initiated the move against the union shop after which Judge M. Ray Doubles of Hushings court Part II, granted a union plea to make the brotherhood a defendant in the case.

P. 3

The action was brought by non-union porters who are opposed to the union shop agreement between the brotherhood and the railroad. Virginia officials and many politicians in the state are against the union shop and many of the security measures of organized labor.

## Say State [Signature] Wants To Chicago, Ill. End Unions

Sat. 7-25-53

RICHMOND, Va.—(ANP)—Virginia's anti-labor law in opposition to security for organized workers is being challenged by members of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Attorneys for the porters are gathering evidence against an injunction preventing a union shop agreement between the brotherhood and the Seaboard Air Line Railroad.

Five porters initiated the move against the union shop after which Judge M. Ray Doubles of Hushings court Part II, granted a union plea to make the brotherhood a defendant in the case.

The action was brought by non-union porters who are opposed to the union shop agreement between the brotherhood and the railroad. Virginia officials and many politicians in the state are against the union shop and many of the security measures of organized labor.

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# Brotherhood Of Sleeping Car Porters To Celebrate 25th Year

The Chicago Local Division of

the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, composed of 3,000 Pullman Porters, attendants, maids and bus boys, chair car attendants, parlor car porters and train porters with headquarters at 3947 S. Drexel blvd., will celebrate its 28th anniversary with a series of activities beginning Aug. 23 and continuing through Aug. 25, 1953.

The celebration will open up with a public labor education meeting to be held at Good Shepherd Congregational Church. This meeting will be addressed by

Spencer H. Miller, assistant secretary, United States Department of Labor; Mrs. Helena Wilson, International President, Ladies Auxiliary, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; State Representative Charles J. Jenkins, one of the key fighters for FEPC in the Illinois legislature and A. Philip Randolph, International President of Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters is composed potentially of Negro workers covering the employees of the Pullman company and the various railroad companies in 117 cities of the United States of America and Canada.

It originated in August, 1925, in a meeting held by six porters, one of whom was Ashley L. Totten, the present International secretary-treasurer of the organization. It has developed a labor union of some 18,000 employees affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and has contracts with 42 railroad carriers covering and including the porters on the Canadian railroads.

## FIGHT FOR FIREMEN

Among the accomplishments of the organization in the economic field is the fight for the Negro locomotive firemen which was channeled through one organization as a result of setting up the provisional committee for locomotive firemen, who recently were given their seniority rights and allowed to operate on diesel engines on the railroads as a result of the Brotherhood's successful court fight.

One of the greatest obstacles that the Brotherhood has to contend with at this time is the effort of powerful white unions, through various devices, to eliminate Negroes from the better paying jobs on the railroads. The Brotherhood is now in court in several cities fighting the cause of train porters and porter-brakemen. One of the notable cases is the one involving the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad employes, which case has been in court about ten years.

## FOUGHT FOR FEPC

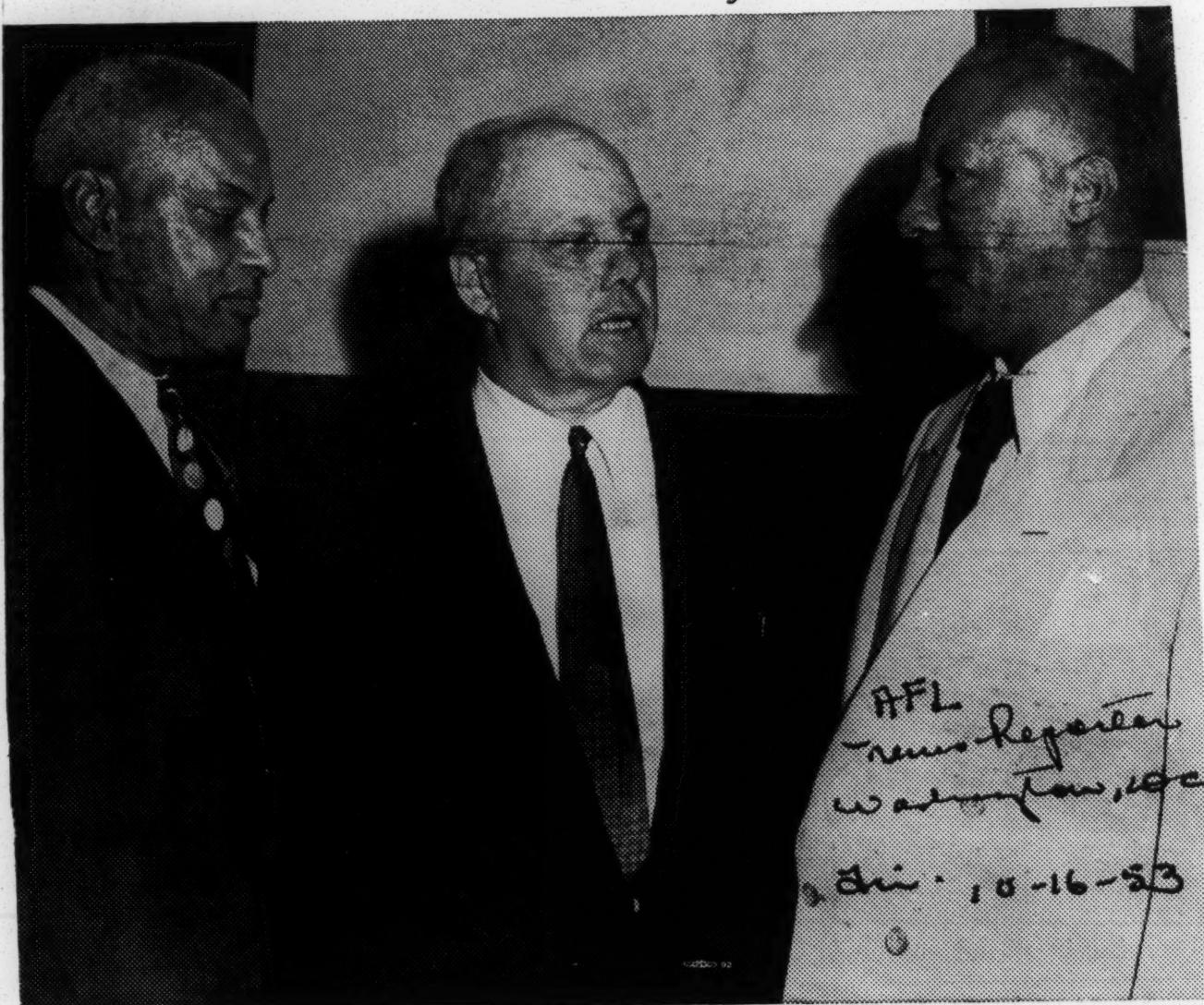
Prior to and during World War II, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters carried on an aggressive fight in behalf of FEPC, after having been largely responsible for the Executive Order 8802 bringing into being the war-time FEPC.

The additional program that resulted from this activity has resulted in the passage of FEPC laws in some ten or twelve states in the nation and the setting up of the Fair Employment Practice Commissions.

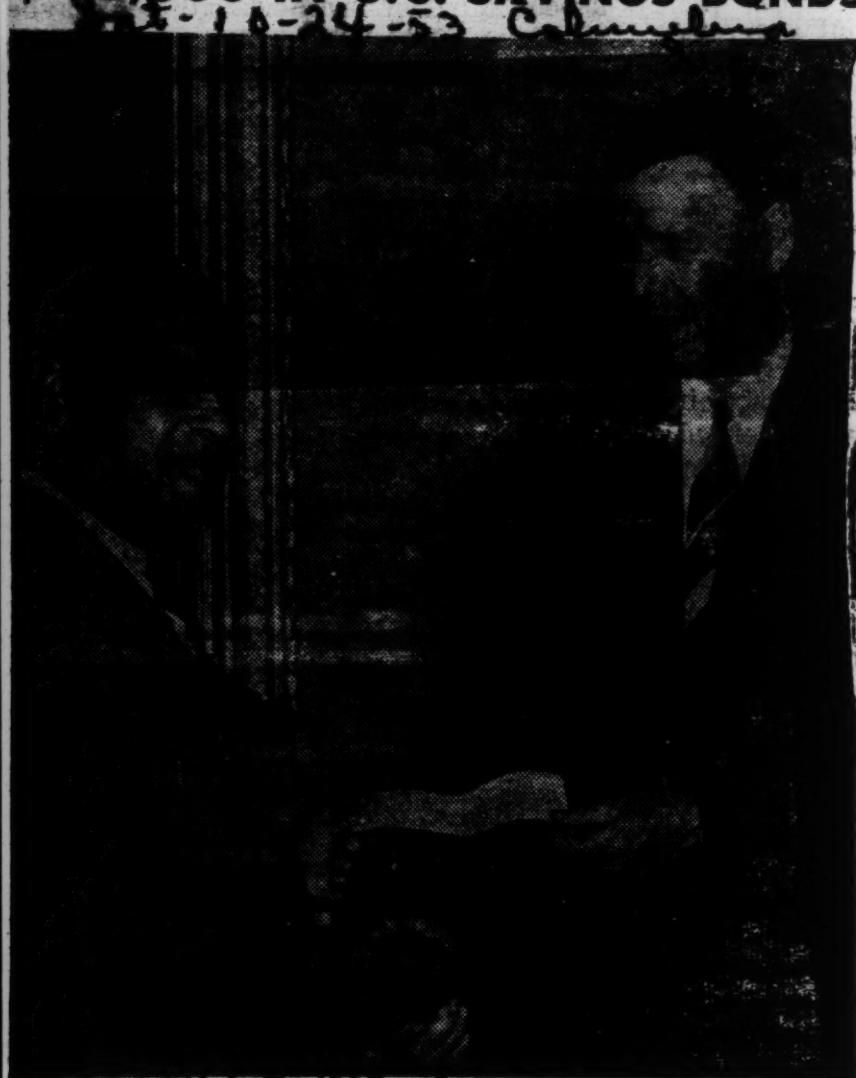
The program of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters is fundamentally a labor union program not altogether different from the program of other international unions only insofar as it is necessary for this organization to combat the various labor practices that unfortunately still exist in the United States.

The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters invites the people of the Chicago area to attend its Public Labor Education Meeting in which meeting it will attempt to convey to them some of the problems that have been met and overcome by this organization in its fight for economic justice for Negro workers of America.

## Porters' Union Executives Confer With Meany



Ashley Totten, secretary-treasurer of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; George Meany, AFL president, and A. Phillip Randolph, president of Sleeping Car Porters' union (left to right), discuss problems of the brotherhood at their convention in Los Angeles.

**SLEEPING CAR PORTERS PURCHASE  
\$100,000 IN U.S. SAVINGS BONDS**

Deputy to the Secretary of the Treasury W. Randolph Burgess, right, receives from Ashley L. Totten, International Secretary-treasurer of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, AFL, a check in the amount of \$100,000 for the purchase of Series J, U. S. Savings Bonds. The presentation was made at the U. S. Treasury recently. This purchase makes \$250,000 in Savings Bonds bought by the Brotherhood in recent years.

## Negroes Serve On Important Committees At Labor Meeting

CLEVELAND, Ohio — (SNS) — Mainly through the skillful manuverings of Cornelius Maiden, delegate from Local 321 of Atlanta and international representative of the C. W. U.-A. F. L., Negro delegates served on all of the committees at the Chemical Workers Union convention which convened here.

Maiden, vice-president of the Alabama State Federation of Labor, held a caucous August 9 at Hotel

Hollen to discuss resolutions and hold a key committee positions a testimony dinner was given by From one to the Negro delegates cal 1300 in somewhat of appreciation were placed on every convention committee. Maiden called on the and long hours Maiden had put forth to substantiate increases in law committee.

Neglecting some of his other duties, Maiden who is seldom seen sitting down at a convention, delivered three key speeches at the meeting and friendly welcome

greetings were voiced when he walked into the convention. He was kept busy meeting delegates from the various communities and districts.

He had to leave the convention before adjournment for Louisville, Ky., where he is engaged in activities leading up to an election at the Du Pont Chemical Plants. Involved are 3,500 employees. He predicts that they will soon be covered by his union.

"It looks good for my union," Maiden said.

A great number of delegates from various sections of the country and Canada, kept him busy posing in group pictures. In front of the Convention Hall, thirty-two different pictures were taken. Included in these pictures were pictures of the members of the Chamber of Commerce, House of Representatives, and different local union members of the Chamber of Commerce, House of Representatives, and different local union members.

Maiden is popular with delegates out of the West and the South. They all see him as, "The delegate who leads the fight to raise the International Union Capital Tax." Maiden spoke at that convention for one hour and twenty minutes with not a delegate leaving the convention. He is asked by a great many delegates, "What are you fighting for?" "Let us know, we are with you." He tells them, "I have been trying to find a Negro Pres' lent; I can't find anyone but myself." He gives

a big laugh and walks off. You can rest assured that he is looking

In his remarks, he urged local delegates to use their influence in sending some of the other delegates back to the convention. He has been busy in Ohio and Kentucky.

He has reported some of his activities in some of the twenty-eight states that he has worked. He is

one of the men moved about traveling elers of the labor movement.

Maiden was ordered to Chicago confer with delegates who were to assist in negotiation after which holding key committee positions a testimony dinner was given by

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# ICFTU Gains By 4 Million, Organizing Drives Pushed

**MEMBERSHIP** in the Intl. Confederation of Free Trade Unions has jumped by four million since the 1951 meeting in Milan, Italy, Gen. Sec. J. H. Oldenbroek reported to the third world congress at Stockholm last week.

The worldwide voice of free labor now speaks for 34 million working men and women in 97 organizations in 73 countries ranging from the most highly industrialized to the least developed, he said.

The membership increased by more than 500,000 workers during the convention, when the delegates approved the admission of Histadrut, the Israel federation of labor, with 472,000 members, and two Chilean unions, the Confederation of Copper Workers and the Confederation of Maritime Workers, with 30,000 members.

Histadrut is the largest and most powerful union in the Middle East and includes an overwhelming percentage of Israeli workers. The Chilean unions are affiliates of a national center with constitutional barriers to international affiliations.

Oldenbroek also reported that organizational campaigns, on a decentralized basis, are well under way in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

In Latin America, he said, the Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers (ORIT) has not only made notable progress in Chile, Uruguay and the Caribbean area, but has become a major bulwark against the spread of Russian communism on the one hand and Peronist fascism on the other.

## Schools Established

The organizing drives are paid for out of a special Regional Activities Fund to which the CIO gave \$100,000. The major contributors were the Canadian Congress of Labor, with which CIO unions in that country are affiliated; the British Trades Union Congress and the German Federation of Labor (DGB).

The campaigns in Asia and Africa have proceeded so far that permanent labor training schools have been established at Calcutta, India, and Accra, on the African Gold Coast, he said.

Oldenbroek's report also detailed ICFTU championship of human rights in many countries since the last world congress.

The most widely known was in connection with the campaign in the United Nations against slave labor. This led to the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee before which the ICFTU gave testimony and evidence. The committee report, made public a few weeks ago, declared flatly that slave labor exists for purposes of economic advancement or political punishment, or both, in every country behind the Iron Curtain, and in some other parts of the world as well.

The ICFTU voiced bitter condemnation of the mass deportations of Hungarian workers and asked the UN to act; condemned the Prague trials, actively opposed fascism in Spain, and has been engaged in a running fight with France over its mistreatment of labor and the nationalist movement in Tunisia.

It also championed the rights of man in Venezuela, South Africa, Argentina, the Saar, Morocco, Cyprus, Rhodesia, Uruguay and Japan.

## Economic Aid Fund Proposed

A SIX-POINT program for a worldwide anti-Communist offensive on the "bread-and-butter" level was spelled out for the third world congress of the Intl. Confederation of Free Trade Unions at Stockholm by CIO Pres. Walter P. Reuther.

Essentially, the plan provides for an international fund for economic and social construction in the underdeveloped countries, and an international stockpiling pool to permit all nations to live in economic security.

The CIO chieftain asked the delegates, representing the free trade union movements of 73 nations, to present his program to their respective governments and ask them to work for its implementation through the United Nations.

In a major speech Reuther outlined his main points as follows:

1. "A Free World Labor Fund for economic and social construction: We urge the creation of a commission within the United Nations to work out a practical and continuing means for achieving equity of access among all nations, rich or poor, trialized nations.



CIO Sec-Treas. James B. Carey greets worker-students to the world's basic economic resources.

## CIO Sends \$1100 For Dutch Relief

The CIO last week sent another contribution, of \$1160, to the Netherlands Federation of Labor (NVV) for victims of last winter's disastrous floods. Earlier the CIO had given \$1000 through CARE.

"Our trade union groups should urge upon their governments and the United Nations the establishment of such a fund for the purpose of expanding present efforts to assist underdeveloped nations to develop their resources and to create the economic basis for raising living standards. Each nation should contribute into this based upon its means.

2. "We urge the United Nations to give leadership to the creation of an international resources partnership in which all areas, large and small, would have an equal vote.

"Such a partnership, by pooling and stabilizing the demand for the world's basic commodities, would create the necessary protection for underdeveloped countries against the economic insecurity which has been their lot when even small business recessions have occurred in industrialized nations.



TWU Pres. Quill, CIO Pres. Reuther under Swedish "No Smoking" sign.

of nearly 50% in the level of activity in single-commodity supplying nations. The resources partnership should cover some 20 to 25 basic commodities and foodstuffs, such as tin, copper and sugar, which have been subject to drastic price and demand fluctuations.

3. "We call upon the various trade secretariats of the ICFTU to intensify

their efforts to establish fair and equalized labor standards so that free trade may be expanded on a basis which will protect power as the only means of achieving a guaranteed share in the fruits of increasing productivity. Ours is a problem not of increasing the worker's share of the economic pie, but of providing a constantly larger pie in which to share.

4. "We urge our unions to increase their pressure to raise wages and purchasing power as the only means of achieving a guaranteed share in the fruits of increasing productivity. Ours is a problem not of increasing the worker's share of the economic pie, but of providing a constantly larger pie in which to share.

5. "We hold it a matter of right that workers should receive a constant and guaranteed share in the fruits of increasing productivity. The guarantee of concrete trade union demands, is one which must of necessity be

6. "The question of concrete trade union demands, is one which must of necessity be

worked out in each country and by each union in relation to specific needs and situations.

#### Annual Wage Urged

"It is urged that where practicable, trade unions explore the workability of establishing guaranteed annual wage contracts. Since the worker and his family must eat and live by the year, the worker should as a matter of both right and necessity be paid by the year.

"The guaranteed annual wage would be an important contribution to the creation of the stable purchasing power upon which full employment and full production must rest."

**RALPH**

# M C GILL

## 'Old John' Plans a Move



A u t u m n leaves will not be the only things falling when the melancholy days arrive, ~~se re~~ with the promise of winter.

Affiliated unions will be falling away from the tree

of the CIO. Walter Reuther, the doctrinaire, ambitious and able head of CIO, is not equal to the task of holding them. More and more CIO unions are becoming restive and are meeting secretly, (some openly), with the new leadership of the American Federation of Labor.

Tom Meany, who replaced the late William Green, has proved to be what that huge organization was looking for in its fight to force the CIO to join ranks with the parent body. The smaller affiliates of the CIO, and Big Steel, too, understand Meany. He talks their language. The cold, statistical, machine-like Reuther, who does not know how to unbend and be one of the boys, is like some aloof god on a cloud-rimmed Olympus.

When ~~Old John~~ Murray died it was possible to predict that within a

year or two CIO would likely be affiliated with the A. F. of L. or stripped of most of its strength. Murray was the glue which held the big, clamorous CIO together. It existed, and was strong because of the two biggest members—steel and automobiles.

It was inevitable there would be jealousies between them. Murray was Steel and Murray was head of CIO. Because he had come from Steel he held them, too. When he died unity died.

Mon. 6-29-53

**'Old John'**

Latest straw in the wind is the recent "talk" between John L. Lewis and David J. McDonald, head of the Steel Workers of America. Reports persist McDonald will lead Steel out of CIO.

John L. Lewis is looking for some place to go. It was he who headed the successful revolution which created CIO and organized the mass production workers. William Green lacked the imagination to see what had happened within the framework of the industrial revolution. "Old John" proved himself to be the great labor genius of that period.

It was during this fight against the A. F. of L. that he was asked what he thought was in the mind of William Green. Always the maker of epigrams, the bon mot and the cutting phrase, "Old John" didn't hesitate.

"I have examined the mind of William Green," he said, "and there is nothing in it."

Now, he alone of the labor giants survives.

And it is likely not amiss to conclude that he is, as usual, looking toward the future. The demand for miners grows less and less as coal declines in use. The huge diesels that pull the long trains, pulsing through the night with their frog-like horns making old-timers wistful for the whistles of the old steam locomotives whose roar and fiery red flare from the opened fire box were so much a part of the American scene, have put hundreds of miners out of work. Oil and gas furnaces in homes and industries have added to the problem.

#### The Break

"Old John" merely snorts at those who say his increase in labor costs have brought it about. He knew, he says, that

progress couldn't be stopped. And he says that atomic energy will, within a few years, do for oil and gas what they did for coal. His concept was, he says, that the miner should not work for a pittance merely because to pay him well would mean less use of coal.

Now, he sees that as his union grows smaller it would be well to cease being an independent and tie in with a stronger union—Steel. And if Steel goes to the A. F. of L., then the miners will go with them.

The break in the CIO ranks will come before or during the autumn months. It is not too much to predict that within the next year all will be in save automobiles. Reuther, if he can keep control, may try to do with them what Lewis for so long did with the miners—act as a balance of power. But, the CIO leaves will soon be falling.

## C. I. O. DENIES TALK OF UNION MERGERS

Asserts Brewery, Meat, Utility Workers Discussed No-Raid Pacts With 3 A.F.L. Units

P. 392  
By STANLEY LEVEY

Published reports that three Congress of Industrial Organizations unions were conducting merger talks with three affiliates of the American Federation of Labor were denied or discounted yesterday.

John Riffe, executive vice president of the C. I. O. said in Washington that there was no truth in "sensationalized stories" to that effect. George Meany, A. F. L. president, commented that some of the conversations had been going on for a year and that they might accelerate organic unity between the two big parent groups—not hinder it.

The reports declared that the United Brewery Workers, the United Packinghouse Workers and the Utility Workers (all C. I. O.) were on the verge of merger with the following A. F. L. unions: the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Mr. Riffe acknowledged that three sets of discussions had taken place but insisted that the C. I. O. affiliates "have been exploring the possibility of reaching no-raid agreements with A. F. L. unions in the same field." He said he had talked with the officers of the

C. I. O. unions, adding:

"The purpose of all these discussions has been to create organizational stability and to free a maximum of organizational personnel to the number one need of the American labor movement, the organization of the unorganized.

"To suggest on the basis of these no-raid conversations that a series of mergers is imminent is to sensationalize the facts, draw false conclusions and cause great confusion in the ranks of organized labor. The facts simply do not bear out these sensationalized stories and predictions."

In Chicago the Packinghouse Workers and the Meat Cutters were reported to have reached a no-raid agreement, but officials of neither union would confirm the report. In a joint statement, they said only that they had met and "discussed mutual problems." A similar meeting may be held in two weeks.

Another no-raid agreement was said to be in prospect between the C. I. O. brewery union and the A. F. L. teamster group after discussions in Cincinnati. But Einar Mohm, assistant to teamster chief, Dave Beck, who did not attend, denied reports that the two unions were close to a merger. "That was not a subject for discussion," he said.

In Washington, Dan Tracy, president of the big A. F. L. electrical union said there was nothing to the report of merger discussions between his union and the C. I. O. utility workers union.

## CIO Is Accused Of Job Bias At Memphis Plant

CHICAGO (INS) — The president of the International Harvester Company Tuesday charged the CIO United Auto Workers union with racial discrimination.

John L. McCaffrey sent a telegram to Walter P. Reuther, union and CIO president, charging that a strike which began April 23 at International's Memphis Works "is a direct result of a Negro employee having been promoted to a job as a welder."

The telegram said that the union and Reuther "on many occasions have declared your belief in the employment policy of no discrimination because of race or creed." It added:

"The present contract between your union and this company prohibits such discrimination."

Of the Negro whom McCaffrey said was involved in the walkstoppage, the Harvester president said:

"He is entitled to the welding job both by seniority and ability and his promotion was required by the terms of our contract."

## REUTHER BACKS PLAN IN NEGRO'S PROMOTION

Says Employer Can Act To  
Prevent Discrimination

The Commercial Appeal-Chicago Daily  
News Service, Copyright 1953

CHICAGO, May 1. — Walter P. Reuther, president of the CIO-United Auto Workers, said Friday an employer may discipline an ~~member~~ of the union who tries to interfere with promotions because of racial discrimination.

Mr. Reuther made the statement in a telegram to John L. McCaffrey, president of International Harvester Co.

Mr. McCaffrey last Tuesday telegraphed Mr. Reuther that a "wildcat" strike was in progress in Harvester's Memphis plant over the promotion of a Negro to welder on the basis of seniority.

Mr. Reuther said the union executive board instructed him to inform Mr. McCaffrey the NAW

"supports the principle" that qualified workers "shall not be denied promotion because of race, creed, color or national origin."

The workers have returned to their jobs.

The six-day wildcat strike at the Memphis Works of International Harvester ended Wednesday. The welders, members of Local 988 of the United Automobile, Aircraft, Agricultural and Implement Workers of America (CIO), returned to their jobs just a few hours before receipt of a telegram to the local union from Mr. Reuther. Mr. Reuther's telegram ordered the strikers to go back to work.

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## Urge Ban on Jim Crow Unions

By SAMUEL P. PERRY, JR.

BOSTON, Mass. — (AP)— Elwood S. McKenney, member of the al.

Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination last week called upon CIO and AFL union officials to end the practice of so-called segregated locals for their colored membership.

The commissioner addressed a labor conference of representatives of both key unions. Present were John Horan, president of the Greater Boston CIO-IUC and Philip Kramer, manager of the Boston Joint Board, ILGWU.

"Discrimination and segregation exist within labor unions in Massachusetts today, and whether this represents errors of commission or omission is not the important consideration," stated Commissioner McKenney. "What is important is that the union leadership open their eyes to the facts of discrimination for which they have the responsibility and begin to clean-up their own house."

McKenney asserted further that wherever there was segregation, whether in education, housing, employment, or union organization, an honest examination of its effect revealed that segregation meant inequality.

"The fact that there exist so-called segregated locals of both AFL and CIO unions, even here in Boston," he challenged, "means that the members of such locals, whether the parent labor organization is to be blamed or not, do not have equal opportunity with white members."

"That colored waiters are confined to certain hotels, that night clubs are discouraged from hiring colored musicians is the fault of the parent labor organizations which give only lip service to the fight to abolish all forms of discrimination."

"The fact must also be recognized that the FEPC of Massachusetts has outlawed the possibility of exclusion by labor unions of Negro applicants for membership. This means that there is no longer any need for any so-called segregated union which was organized to represent any colored workers who could not, prior to 1946, join the dominant white obtained his law education in Bos-

ton, has always been active in union because of restrictions because of its constitution or by-laws."

In conclusion the commissioner called upon the leadership of organized labor to take steps to eliminate all discrimination or segregation from within its house, "whether historical or intention-

16m 1953

HOTEL AND CLUB EMPLOYEES UNION (NEW YORK)

## Five Chosen Union Judges

NEW YORK—Five distinguished persons have accepted the invitation of the Hotel and Club Employees Union, Local 6, to judge the entries for the first annual award of \$500 from the Union to the person or organization judged to have done the most to promote better race relations during the calendar year, 1953.

Those who will serve on the panel of judges are:

Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi of the New York State Department of Labor.

Hugo Ernst, president of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union, AFL. 9-5-53

Frederick D. Patterson, president of the United Negro College Fund and director of the Phelps-Stokes Fund.

Mrs. Anna M. Rosenberg, labor and personnel relations expert, and former Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The awards will be made on the basis of nominations sent to the Awards Committee at headquarters of the Union, 305 W. 44th St., before January 10, 1954. Any person or organization may nominate candidates for the award.

The \$500 gift will be presented to the winner during Negro History Week in February 1954, as a part of the Union's annual observance of the contributions made by Negroes to the history and culture of the United States.

# 500 Negroes Attend Hod Carriers' Confab

By ALICE L. DUNNIGAN

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — Approximately 500 Negroes were among the 1800 members of the International Hod Carriers' Building Common Laborers who assembled in Washington last week to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their union.

Highlight of the three-day convention was the golden-anniversary banquet at the National Guard Armory. Some 2,600 guests heard addresses by Martin P. Durkin, former secretary of labor and president of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry; George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor, and Joseph V. Moreschia, general president of the Laborers.

In his opening remarks, Vincent F. Morreale, general counsel of the Hod Carriers, declared that nobody could say that their union discriminated against Negroes or Jews. "This organization has opened its arms to every group," he said, "regardless of race, creed or color."

#### Organized in 1903

In referring to the need of trade unions, former Secretary Durkin said "wage earners of America have formed trade unions because no one else cared how they and their families lived."

Durkin recalled that the Hod Carriers was organized in 1903 with a membership of 2,223 and now—50 years latter—it boasts a membership of 435,000 covering North American, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. He said: "Your organization has also given real meaning to the words 'democracy' because it has pointed out to you both your rights and duties as citizens in this great nation of ours."

In speaking with Negro delegates from various sections of the country, it was revealed that the Hod Carriers' union is one AFL group which has complete integration, even in the southern locals.

#### 95 per cent Negro members

An official from local 518, Texas, pointed out that the membership

of this local is about 95 percent Negro and that the staff in the state office is completely integrated. This is true in the locals of Virginia, according to delegates from that state, as well as other locals scattered throughout the country, reaching as far west as California.

Charles E. Clark of Pittsburgh, the first vice president of the union, was one of two Negroes seated at the guest table. The 50-odd national and international officials who were seated at the head table marched into the auditorium to the orchestra tune of "Marching Together." They were preceded in the line of march by their beautifully dressed wives who occupied reserve tables directly in front of the guest table.

The speaker's table was beautifully decorated with golden oblong baskets containing red dahlias, yellow chrysanthemums and golden asters. The head table was bordered with glittering gold drapes outlined with a wreath of green foliage. White and gold curtains served as a backdrop for the long guest table centered with the union emblem portraying a map of the world encircled with the organization's three word motto, "Justice, honor, strength." This was flanked by the flags of America and Canada and topped by great pots of bakers ferns.

#### Enjoy Entertainment

Beside hearing speeches from some of the country's outstanding labor leaders, they were also entertained with a chorus line of eight girls called the Western Debs; a Latin dance team known as Hernandey Duo; the Baron twins singing and dance team; Tony Drake, a singing star; the Rose sister's novelty act; and the Brick brothers acrobatic team. Morey Amsterdam of television fame served as master of ceremonies.

A delegation of Italian labor leaders in this country under the auspices of the government to study the labor movement in America, were special guests of the Hod Carriers banquet.

16m 1953

INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT UNION

Labor unions are big businesses these days, and 1,500,000 Negroes belong to them. Last week the International Ladies Garment Workers Union reported assets of \$166 million. Other big unions with thousands of Negro members have comparable funds. This suggests that these members should be taking a more active part than they do in union affairs. 16m

**Perry C. Harvey**

## A Labor Leader's Report on Tampa

The Courier failed to see and talk with Perry C. Harvey, president and business agent of Local 1402 International Longshoremen's Association.

Organizations of ship loaders and dock workers are potent politically all over the United States.

A letter asking for Mr. Harvey's views brought the following reply:

"I regret very much that I could not attend the meeting with you and C. Blythe Andrews on your recent visit to Tampa.

"However, I knew that Mr. Andrews had all the facts to report that you would be interested in from a political standpoint pertaining to the Negroes of Tampa, Hillsborough and Florida.

"I am going to try to outline briefly to you the political situation as it stands in reference to Negroes in Tampa and Hillsborough County.

"1. The City Election Board is appointed by the Mayor. The name of the party that dominates is a white municipal party. Approximately twelve years ago the Negro in Tampa went before the Federal District Court and out of this case the decision was handed down by the Federal judge, thereby giving Negroes their first chance to vote in city elections for a number of years. The highest number of Negroes ever registered under the white municipal party, thereby giving them a right to vote in the city primary, was approximately 7,000.

"2. We have here in the county of Hillsborough what is known as a Democratic primary, where all county, state and national officers are elected. The county Democratic party dominates this election. Highest number of Negroes registered under the Democratic party is about 7,000 or 9,000.

"3. There are no Negro registrars or any represented on the Registry Commission. None operating polling places during primary or general elections. The entire setup is dominated by the white race and Negroes participate only in going to the polls and casting their ballots.

"Since Negroes have been permitted to vote in the city, county, state and national elections, there have been no intimidations by the opposite race in the city of Tampa or county of Hillsborough.

"The opposite race has encouraged the Negro to register and cast his ballot to a great degree in the county of Hillsborough.

"There has been only one Negro candidate during this period of time, who disqualified himself for public office. He is G. D. Rogers Jr., son of the late G. D. Rogers, president of the Central Life Insurance Company, Tampa, Fla.

"He later got out of the race for City Council, therefore he was the only candidate we could have had an opportunity to support.

*Det. 14 + 14 - 53*  
"4. During the primary elections between ex-Senator Claude Pepper and now Senator George D. Smathers of Florida, the AFL organizations and political action commit-

tees of the CIO did work harmoniously together.

"None of the white political organizations other than these two mentioned have made themselves interested in working with Negroes from a political standpoint.

"We have no thorough and militant effort put forth to organize Negroes to the extent of getting them qualified by registering them.

"We have had seven or eight sham organizations with mere names, where certain individuals were inclined to benefit personally from these organizations.

sey City, where 16,000 dockers barred them from working on the waterfront. cast their ballots for the union of their choice without a ripple of excitement.

A belligerent mood among the electioneering partisans of each union was noticeable almost from the opening of Prospect Hall at 6 a. m. yesterday. The first flare-up occurred two hours later at Sixth Ave. and 16th St., about a block away from the polling place, when several young longshoremen got into a violent argument over the merits of their unions.

Anthony Brub, fifty-one, a longshoreman, 358 Columbia St., was maimed when he said he sought to act as a "peacemaker" when a fist fight broke out. He was treated at Methodist Hospital.

The near riot, in which three seamen were stabbed, broke out at the same place at 11 a. m. when three automobiles pulled up with about twenty seamen who had volunteered for electioneering duties. Virgil W. Hervey, special Assistant District Attorney assigned to the Brooklyn Rackets Bureau, said the men told him that almost 100 longshoremen "came out of nowhere" and piled into the seamen. The melee lasted less than five minutes with the longshoremen vanishing as rapidly as they had appeared, according to Mr. Hervey. The stabbed seamen were left lying on the sidewalk.

With police and detectives fanned out for at least a half mile from the voting area for the rest of the day, there were no further reports of disturbances. Methodist Hospital reported the condition of the three seamen as "good."

News of the assaults traveled along the waterfront swiftly, bringing brief work stoppages to two piers. Longshoremen of Bower's local stopped work at noon to go to the aid of their leader in Brooklyn, tying up Piers 86 and 92 at W. 46th and 52d Sts. The men returned to work about 2 p. m.

Police also reported that "the mob from Manhattan" had infuriated A. F. L. supporters by their electioneering tactics. They identified the mob members as Bowers, Johnny Keefe, Frank (Machine Gun) Campbell and Albert Ackalitis, all ex-convicts whose police records have

## 3 Stabbed

### In 'Riot' in Pier Voting

#### 400 Police Quell Brooklyn Melee

By Walter Hanes

Three men were stabbed and a half dozen others bruised and battered in a series of clashes between opposing factions on the second day of voting to determine whether the independent International Longshoremen's Association or the new A. F. L. longshoremen's union of the same name will represent New York's waterfront workers in collective bargaining.

The outbreaks, including one near riot involving more than 100 seamen and dock workers occurred near the National Labor Relations Board's polling place at Prospect Hall, Prospect and Fifth Aves., Brooklyn. Four hundred police and detectives were quickly summoned to restore order in the afternoon, and voting proceeded peacefully until the poll closed last night.

#### Injured Men Seamen

The three men hospitalized

#### Trouble at Start

The fighting was in contrast to the orderly voting Tuesday at 250 Hudson St. and at the Polish Community Center, Jer-

# Shortage, *6m* Stirs N. O. Stevedores

NEW ORLEANS—Longshoremen of strife-ridden Local 1419 of the International Longshoremen's Association, AFL, last week demanded that their president, Dave Dennis, be fired for "maladministration and misappropriation of union funds."

In rousing speeches, the trio accused Dennis of poor leadership, misuse of union funds, lack of regard for old and sick union members. They also charged that Dennis threatened the men who called the anti-Dennis meeting.

Legal action to oust Dennis is anticipated. A former assistant city attorney, John F. Connolly, said several civil and criminal court actions would be levelled which Dennis is president.

These funds, the committee charged, were raised by deductions of five percent from longshoremen's wages. Dennis and Leo Tankerson said he had admitted before Senators Charles W. Tobey (R., N. H.) and Charles E. Potter (R., Mich.) that five percent assessments were made DA's probe.

## SIGN PETITIONS

Rebel leaders, however, said petitions now being circulated should be effective in firing Dennis. They predicted they would line up 3,000 signatures although they only need 2,200 signers of the union's 3,400 members.

**DENNIS CALLS MEETING**  
A special showdown meeting of ILA, Local 1419, will be held at 8 p.m. July 12 at the union hall "to give everyone a chance to be heard on any subject to vote on any motion brought up at the meeting."

The meeting was called by President Dave Dennis, under fire of rebel union members who have demanded his impeachment and the end to a policy of assessing each longshoreman in the local five percent of his wages.

out like a prayer meeting and ended up a slam-bang, wild demonstration to oust Dennis.

Leaders of the revolt against Dennis are Ernest James, Alvin Bocage and Cornelius Smith. All are candidates for the post now held by Dennis.

## DENNIS IS CHARGED WITH \$12,828 THEFT

### Borrowed Money, Repaid It, He Says

The district attorney's office *6m* charged Dave A. Dennis, president of local No. 1419 of the International Longshoremen's Association now on leave, with the theft of \$12,828.78.

The affidavit filed with the clerk of the criminal court charged Dennis with the theft of this amount in United States currency which was property of the Crescent Broadcasting Company, Inc., 2715 Danneel, of which Dennis is president.

The affidavit stated that the theft took place between May 8, 1951, and June 15, 1951.

The charge was accepted by assistant district attorney Raoul Sere. The affidavit was signed by Daniel J. Jones, one of the investigators for the district attorney's office assigned to probe activities of the union.

Dennis, accompanied by his attorney, Sam Monk Zelden, made the \$5000 bond set by the district attorneys' office.

**'With Permission,' Says Dennis**  
Dennis, in a written statement issued through his attorney, said:

"I testified under oath before the Tobey committee with respect to the above money and stated that I had borrowed these funds with the permission of members of the board of Local 1419 ILA and that every dime thereof was subsequently paid back; in addition a personal note was given by myself as collateral for the above loans."

(Dennis was a principal witness at the Senate subcommittee hearing on waterfront rackets conducted here recently by the late Sen. Charles H. Tobey of New Hampshire).

**'Just One Phase,' Says Sere**  
Asked if this charge completes the investigation of the union's activities, Sere and J. P. Screen,

tended conference, Sere said, "We summoned Dennis here to ask him some questions. He has attempted to be co-operative and so has Mr. Zelden."

Dennis' statement follows in full:

"I was charged Friday afternoon by the district attorney's office with the theft of \$12,828.78 of funds from the Crescent Broadcasting Company, Inc., a corporation owned by Local 1419, ILA.

### Says Personal Note Given

"I testified under oath before the Tobey committee with respect to the above money and stated that I had borrowed these funds with the permission of members of the board of Local 1419, ILA, and that every time thereof was subsequently paid back, in addition a personal note was given by myself as collateral for the above loans."

"For some strange reason this matter was not referred to the grand jury, but the office of the district attorney made those charges.

"I have at all times co-operated to the utmost of my ability with the Tobey committee and the DA's office and supplied them with all records and made statements with respect to my position as president of Longshoremen's Local 1419. I have never tried to hide anything or secrete anything or falsify."

"I am proud of my record as president of my union and feel confident that at the proper time I and my record will be vindicated.

"The oldest legal maxim in the world is that a man is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

"Be fair and human and Christian—give me a chance before an unbiased, unprejudiced fair court to prove my absolute innocence."

Sere said after the charge was made:

"We have spent the past several months investigating the affairs of this union. This particular phase of the investigation was completed by Mr. Screen, who worked with Mr. Hollis. Screen handled the legal end and Hollis the accounting end."

During a recess in the ex-

# Laborhead accused of \$12,828 theft

NEW ORLEANS—(AP)—Informed that Dave A. Dennis, president of the General Longshore Workers Local No. 1419 (AFL) ILA, was about to leave the city for Liberia, the district attorney's office recently accused him of being the popular labor leader of the alleged embezzlement of \$12,828.78 of the union's funds.

Dennis posted bond of \$5,000.

Although the DA's office pretended it had sent for Dennis under the guise of straightening out financial matters which the DA's auditors said was at a variance with the union's auditors, it was obvious that the charging of Dennis was a cut and dried affair.

Dennis considered the proposed plans of the DA as death for him, in that the union is presently afame with internal strife and that as a result of these charges against him, anything might now happen along the waterfront.

For more than two hours, Dennis and his attorney tried to smooth things out in a conference composed of the two DA investigators and two of the DA's aides, but to no avail.

The hullabaloo centered around two checks drawn in 1951 by Dennis. The DA contended that Dennis used them to purchase personal real estate.

Dennis said the money had been returned. The DA said it had not. The DA also said that if it had been returned it had been taken illegally.

## Politics Seen

The move of the DA's office in charging Dennis, has given rise to considerable conjecture. Some say it is politics. Others point out the two DA aides will be candidates for that office in the coming January elections.

In defense of himself Dennis gave the following statement to the press:

"I was charged with the theft of \$12,828.78 of funds from the Crescent Broadcasting Company Incorporated, a corporation owned by Local 1419 ILA.

"I testified under oath before the Tobey committee with respect to the above money and stated that I had borrowed these funds with the permission of members of the Board of Local 1419 ILA and that every dime

thereof was subsequently paid back. In addition a personal note was given by myself as collateral for the above loans.

"For some strange reason this matter was not referred to the grand jury, but the office of the district attorney made those charges."

# Beats Rebels In First Court Action

NEW ORLEANS—Dave Dennis, longshoreman boss facing trial on a charge of stealing \$12,868 of union funds, retained his grip on the affairs of his powerful all-Negro local last week.

The widely publicized president of Local 1419 of the International Longshoremen's association won the first round in an initial court skirmish thrown at him by rebel leaders.

The rebels sought to enjoin Dennis and 17 members of the local's board of directors from interfering with the management of the union here, and who also sought to have an immediate audit of all books and records of the local.

Judge Luther E. Hall in civic district court announced that he denied the injunction but stated he was not passing upon the merits of the case nor throwing the matter out of court. He said the issue would be heard on its merits before civil district Judge Walter B. Hamlin after the court opens sessions in October.

Dennis' case has occupied the front page of daily and weekly newspapers probably longer than any similar case of its kind. The local television station carried all-day coverage when Dennis appeared before the Senate committee probing conditions on the New Orleans waterfront.

Dennis has been charged with the theft of \$12,828.78 in union funds.

The controversial union leader a few weeks ago asked for and was given indefinite leave of absence from his office as president of the New Orleans local. A committee was appointed by the International committee of the longshoremen to act in his absence. The members claim this was illegal and that the local body should be consulted in the appointment of trustees.



## Dennis Hears Rice Compare Figures on Union Collections



ANALYZING THE "DISCREPANCY" between union and company figures on union collections from members, Downey Rice, chief counsel for the Tobey investigating committee, stands beside a blackboard he used at the waterfront hearing Thursday.

# \$287,686 LONGSHORE SHORTAGE ALLEGED

*Times-Picayune*  
Figures Denied by Dennis

in Heated Exchange

Mar. 6-26-53

A discrepancy of \$287,686 over a period of four years between the amount that Longshoremen's Union 1419 should have received from a five per cent assessment on the weekly earnings of its members, and the amount that showed up on the union books, was charged Thursday by Downey Rice, chief counsel for a Senate subcommittee investigating New Orleans waterfront activities. It was vigorously denied by Dave A. Dennis, president of the union.

The charge was made in the

form of an exhibit prepared by the committee's accountant, and displayed in the courtroom of US district Judge J. Skelly Wright. Conducting the hearing are Sens. Charles W. Tobey of New Hampshire, chairman, and Charles E. Potter, Michigan, members of a US Senate subcommittee.

Rice stated that the stevedore companies had submitted figures showing their total payments to members of the union, after income tax deductions, in the four year period 1949-52 of \$28,590,361; that five per cent of this should have been \$1,429,498; but that the union's books for the same period showed collections of only \$1,141,810.78.

*New Orleans*  
The figures from the stevedore

Listening at the far right is Dave Dennis, president of Local 1419, International Longshoremen's Association. Seated next to Dennis is Thomas C. Wicker Jr., one of his attorneys.

—Photo by The Times-Picayune.

cents, where the union collects only on even dollars, and that in 1949 for example this could have amounted to "\$15,000 or \$20,000"; and that many members of the union quit, owing assessment, and this could account for another "\$12,000 or \$15,000."

Dennis was on the stand a large part of the day, although other witnesses were also questioned, and will take the stand again Friday, along with Alfred F. Chittenden, president of Local 1418—the white longshoremen's union—who testified at Wednesday's hearing.

During the day Dennis was questioned, among other things, about his financial resources in 1946, including a cedar chest in his house which he said contained about \$3000 in cash.

Near the close of the day's hearing Sen. Potter charged the leader of the Negro longshoremen's union with having committed perjury, either at the hearing, or in testimony be-

fore a New York grand jury, relative to statements as to whether or not he had paid off NLRB officials to influence a New Orleans labor election.

## Alabama Labor Leader Elected to High Office in Mill and Smelter Workers

DENVER.—An outstanding Negro labor leader has been elected to one of the four highest offices in the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, according to unofficial but almost complete returns.

He is Asbury Howard of Bessemer, Ala., who garnered votes at the rate of more than three to one in his race against Ernest Gussaus, Buffalo, N. Y., for the post of eastern vice president in the 100-thousand member union. The union-wide biennial secret referendum election was held November 2.

While the ballot results will not be official until the union's International Canvassing Committee meets in December, Howard's lead was so great as to assure his election. He ran as one of four candidates in a "unity" slate which also included President John Clark, Western Vice President Orville Larson and Secretary-Treasurer M. E. Travis. The other three "unity" candidates were also elected.

Howard brings a 20-year record of outstanding union achievement to his new post of leadership in the non-ferrous metal workers union, which has membership in both the United States and Canada. He has been regional director for Mine-Mill in Alabama for the past several years.

He joined the union when Muscoda Red Ore local 125 was being organized at the Tennessee Coal & Iron Co. properties in the Bessemer-Birmingham area in 1933. He quickly became Recording Secretary of Local 123. As the years passed, Howard rose steadily in the ranks of the union, and in 1942 became an International Representative in his District.

Since then he has remained continually on the union's International staff, becoming a regional director in 1950. His participation in important struggles of the iron ore workers in Alabama has won tremendous respect for him by the entire membership of the union, Negro and white alike, both in the U. S. and Canada.

When asked how he felt about Wilson winning the international vice presidency by such a large majority, he said: "I thank God for my many friends in this union, and for this victory of democracy in action."

In addition to his outstanding trade union record, Howard is

prominent in community and church organizations in his area. He joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1942 and has been



ASBURY HOWARD



ASBURY HOWARD of Bessemer, Ala., has been elected to one of the four highest offices in the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers. Howard beat Ernest Gussaus, of Buffalo, N. Y., for the post of Eastern Vice-president in the 100,000 member union. He brings a 20-year record of union leadership to his new post.

a vice president of the Bessemer NAACP branch for many years.

In the early 1940's, he became convinced that it was important to organize the worker's vote. He became active in the Bessemer Voter's League, and has been President of the League for a number of years. He is also active in the Bessemer Civic League, a citizen's committee in Bessemer.

Howard joined the Star Light Baptist church in Bessemer when he was a youth, and has been the superintendent of that church's Sunday School continually for 25 years. He is also clerk of the Star Light congregation.

He and his wife, Mrs. Mable Howard, have two children. Their daughter is Cleopatra Howard; their son, Asbury Howard Jr., is a sergeant first class in the Army and served two years in Korea during the recent war.

When he is sworn in as eastern vice president on January 1, Howard will be succeeding Charles

Wilson, who placed Howard's name in nomination at the St. Louis convention.

When asked how he felt about Wilson winning the international vice presidency by such a large majority, he said: "I thank God for my many friends in this union, and for this victory of democracy in action."

In addition to his outstanding trade union record, Howard is

16m 1953

KENTUCKY

**LOUISVILLE CIO ELECTS  
TAYLOR TO MAJOR OFFICE**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Whitfield Taylor last week became the first known colored man to hold a major office in the CIO Louisville Industrial Union Council. He was elected financial secretary of the council, founded in 1942 and representing some 14,000 union members. He is a delegate from the United Automobile Workers Local 817 at the International Harvester Company plant.

16m 1953

Louisiana -

Seek To Avoid Labor Dispute

# Sugar Workers Appeal For Labor Conciliator

*16m La -*  
The Sugar Workers Union No. 317, affiliated with the National Agricultural Workers Union, A F of L, called on State Labor Commissioner, Luther Simmons, for services of a State Labor Conciliator to assist in avoiding an impending labor dispute between the union and the large-scale corporation plantation operators.

The A F of L Sugar Workers Union has its headquarters in Reserve, La., and represents 3,000 sugar cane plantation workers in Louisiana. The Union was organized one year ago.

Frank Lapeyrolerie, Secretary-Treasurer of the Sugar Workers Union stated today:

*9/10/53*  
"We have sent several large plantations where the workers are organized into our union letters requesting the companies to engage in bargaining with the representatives of the union. We received replies from all that we have written that they would not recognize us and sit down for the purpose of collective bargaining. We realize that such a situation could lead to serious difficulties with regard to the cultivation and harvesting of the cane crop in the future. We want to avoid such a situation and have requested the services of a Conciliator to see if a meeting with the company plantations could be arranged."

The companies notified were:

1. Godechaux Sugar Corp.
2. Southdown Sugar Corp.
3. South Coast Sugar Corp.
4. Savoie Farms, Ltd.
5. Armalise Planting Corp.
6. E. G. Robichaux Ltd.
7. Dugas & LeBlanc, Ltd.
8. Uncle Sam-Mt. Airy Planting Co.
9. Millikan & Farwell, Inc.

Lapeyrolerie continued:

"These plantations represent the largest units among the farms producing sugar in southeastern Louisiana. These units own sugar mills as well as refineries and in some cases have union contracts in their processing plants. Practically all of them pay a wage of no more than \$4.05 per nine hour day for the tractor drivers and opera-

tors of mechanical equipment and \$3.40 per nine hour day for their field laborers. This is a wage which the workers consider impossible to hold body and soul together on."

"We sincerely hope that the big planters will recognize the right of the sugar cane plantation workers to belong to an organization as so many other millions of workers throughout America."

16m 1953

# Layman Walker President Of Negro Labor Council

NATIONAL NEGRO LABOR COUNCIL

CHICAGO — Layman Walker, recording secretary of the Briggs Local 742 of the United Automobile Workers of America, CIO, is the new president of the National Negro Labor Council.

The 37 year old, Virginia born Walker, who now makes his home in Detroit, was elected by acclamation in a standing demonstration by the 700 delegates who gathered from throughout the country for the Council's third annual convention.

*Journal and  
Review*  
*newspaper*  
*newspaper*

IN ACCEPTING THE post, Walker told the assembled delegate, "I am conscious of the mighty obligations that this office holds. They are obligations, not only to those ~~of you~~ who have gathered here at this convention, but obligations to the whole of the Negro people to the growing army of our white allies to the cause of peace, security and freedom that inspires the dynamic struggle of our oppressed brothers and sisters in colonial lands and guides the working people of all nations."

Walker emphasized the need to carry forward the Council's campaign to win jobs for Negroes in all operational categories in the railroad industry. He urged the Council delegates to wage this fight for jobs "as boldly as Harriet Tubman travelled the underground railroad."

*Det. 12-19-53*  
WALKER SUCCEEDS another UAW-CIO functionary, William Hood to the presidency of the national organization which has led drives that have secured employment for Negroes in several industries and businesses throughout the nation. Outstanding among this list of victories were

the jobs won in the Sears Roebuck stores in Cleveland, Indianapolis, Los Angeles and Newark, N. J.

Other officers elected by the convention included Coleman A. Young, executive secretary; Ernest Thompson, director of organization, and Octavia Hawkins, treasurer.

## Dining Car Union Names Chicagoan As President

Emmett E. Reid, 6214 Loomis blvd., was recently elected national president of the Railroad Food Workers' union.

The union has been an independent organization since 1948 and has 3,000 members with an exclusive contract with the Pennsylvania railroad. The membership includes cooks, couch attendants, grillmen, buffet men, and bartenders. The union is planning to expand into other railroads. Headquarters are in Chicago at 6245 Cottage Grove ave.

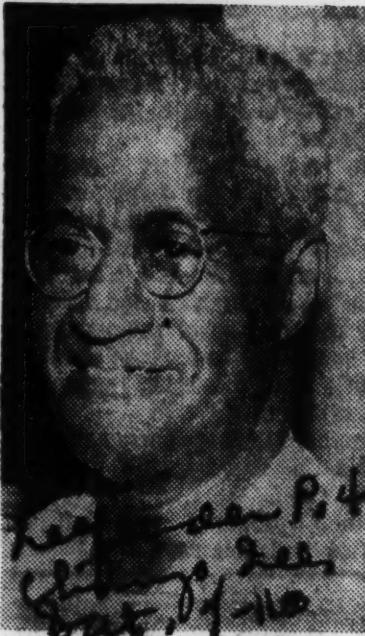
Other officers elected at the meeting in New York were Lee Ramage, Chicago, National secretary-treasurer; Daniel Benjamin, president, New York district; Odell Cobbs, president, Chicago district; and C. E. Mitchell, president, St. Louis district.

Formerly affiliated with the AFL, the union petitioned the Mediation board under the Railway Labor Act in 1948 for an election. A three-way fight developed for control between the AFL, the CIO and members who favored an independent union. The union charged that it was being subjected to taxation without representation.

The independent forces won the election.

In 1951, the AFL petitioned the mediation board for another election, but was again defeated. Meanwhile, the union was fighting charges that it was Red-dominated and that its members were acting as couriers between communist cells from coast to coast.

Reid stated that any Red members who may have infiltrated into the union have been ousted and that the union has no political affiliations. It simply aims to properly present its case before the public and to win fair working conditions for the members. So far, it has won all bids asked for in the line of better working conditions.



EMMETT REID

16m 1953

UNITED AUTOMOBILE AND AIRCRAFT WORKERS

FIRST OF HIS RACE:

## Foundryman Elected President Of Union Local



**UNION LEADERS** — Bennie Richardson of Local 69, United

Automobile and Aircraft Workers and two of his aides, Glenn

Richardson, a foundryman in the

plant of the Johnson Bronze

Company, has been elected pres-

ident of Local 69, United Auto-

mobile and Aircraft Workers of

America, CIO. *P. 5*

His election as president of

the local marks the first time a

colored man has been named

to head a major union in New

Castle. *Bennie* is a member-

ship that runs from 1,800 to

1,900, depending on conditions

and is the largest local in the

Cleveland region of the UAW-

CIO. *16m*

**13 Years At Company**

Richardson's election came as

the result of years of activity

in union circles and his record

of doing jobs well. He started

with the Johnson Bronze Com-

pany 13 years ago and immedi-

ately affiliated himself with the

union. *Jan. 16-27-53*

For some time he served as a

committee member and later

was elected vice president. His

election as president climaxes his service to the union.

**Churchman Also**

In addition to his union activi-

ties Mr. Richardson is active in church and fraternal work.

A member of Second Baptist

Rodgers, left, chief steward for

the third term, and Joseph

Toscano, right, a member of

the negotiating Committee.

church he has interested himself

in the work of the church for

many years. He served for three

terms as exalted ruler of Law-

rence Lodge, 18, of Elks.

He is married and with his

wife and 12-year-old daughter,

Carol Ann, resides at 312 Knox

ave.



**New charter granted**—These are some of the principal figures at a meeting in the Bessemer City Hall yesterday afternoon when a large group of Woodward Iron Co. employees withdrew from the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers to affiliate with the United Mine Workers of America, District 50.

They are, seated, left to right, W. R. Hutchinson, Thomas R. Chambliss, E. E. Hollifield and Ceaser Stansell. Standing, Joe H. Williams, John Womack, W. J. Pickett, Tester Cook, Stanley Edwards and Ervin Cook.

**Quit MMSW—**

## New local gets UMW charter

Approximately 800 former members of the International Union of Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers yesterday went under the banner of District 50, United Mine Workers of America.

The new members are employees of Woodward Iron Co., who received their charter as Local Union 1814 from E. E. Hollifield, regional director of District 50.

The action came at a meeting during the afternoon at the Bessemer City Hall after members of the former Mine-Mill local had petitioned District 50 to take them in.

The Woodward employees voted unanimously for the new connection.

Thomas R. Chambliss, president of the former Mine-Mill local and now president of the new District 50 local, explained that his group has long sought to break away from its former affiliation.

MR. CHAMBLESS said his

colleagues are "all good Amer-

ican citizens who have been under the stigma of a cloud of accusations which by no means are even remotely applicable to the rank and file."

Mr. Chambliss said he expects other groups to follow the lead of his colleagues since there is growing unrest, he declared, with Mine and Mill affiliation in the western section of the district.

The meeting also was addressed by Mr. Hollifield, who welcomed the group into the UMW, and by Thomas Davis, assistant to A. D. Lewis, president of District 50. Mr. Lewis is a brother of John L. Lewis, international UMW head.

# Reverses Anti-Bias Program'

## Union Director May Be Ousted For Race Policy

ATLANTA, Ga. — (ANP) — A labor leader who agreed to the ousting of Negro members from a union banquet here may himself be ousted from the 140,000-member United Packinghouse Workers of America, CIO.

Action against Adrian McKinney, director of the union's eight-state "Deep South" District No. 9 was taken by two UPWA officials after the Dixie leader attempted to reverse the union's strict non-segregation policy and put through a policy of "voluntary" Jim-crow.

The swift action to protect the equal rights policy of the union rocked the entire labor movement as it marked the first time any CIO, AFL or Independent union has sought to oust a leading official for following anti-Negro policies.

McKinney's action, reported to be applauded by Georgia's Governor Talmadge, caused widespread alarm among unionists throughout the country.

The Jim-crow charges were leveled at the Dixie director by Russell R. Lasley, UPWA vice-president and Grover R. Hathaway, UPWA's white Southern-born secretary-treasurer. Hathaway, former director of the same "Deep South" district had previously initiated and carried out a policy of non-segregation for the same union af-

faid in the area.

Lasley, director of UPWA's Anti-Discrimination department and a member of National CIO's Civil Rights committee declared:

"Negroes and white workers in packinghouses all over America know what it means to have a union that'll back up every member regardless of race, creed or color — we've got no room for those who would turn the clock back to white supremacy."

The Southern leaders' attempt to Jim-crow UPWA local followed upon the heels of reports that a disgruntled faction, made up of Southerners and Northerners with-

in the giant packing union, had joined to stop the anti-discrimination program of the CIO Packinghouse union on the grounds that it represented "communism."

The union's anti-discrimination policy recently forced Swift and Company to pay six Negro women more than \$6,000 in pay because they had been discriminated against in the company's hiring hall.

President Ralph Helstein has often declared that "any attempt to split union membership along racial lines or any other lines is a direct sell-out to the 'Bosses' and endangers the life of this union."

"For years our union has been fighting to end second-class citizenship and we certainly won't tolerate any attempts to impose second-class membership upon any section of our membership," he said.

The Southern leader's drive to put through Jim-crow in District No. 9 locals began when McKinney presided over a banquet where Negro members were turned away from the door on the grounds that it was for "whites" only, and other Negroes were ousted.

In Birmingham, Ala., another union leader, John H. Miller, acting upon orders from McKinney, reportedly sought to stampede local unions by warning them that UPWA's anti-discrimination drive was on. Miller, it was said, told two locals that the Packinghouse union was to force the packing companies to end all forms of segregation throughout the plants.

One union, it was reported, flatly refused to co-operate with the anti-Negro leader's plea that they withdraw from UPWA in order to make their union "safe" for segregation.

Meanwhile, the dissident faction is reported to be seeking other leaders to initiate a broader movement for Jim Crow locals throughout Southern unions.

Lasley predicted that the Jim Crow move would "fall flat on its face" and that the overwhelming majority of both Negro and white members would demand action against the anti-Negro director.

UPWA District No. 9 includes Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, North and South Carolina and Virginia. The union represents packinghouse workers in most of the United States, in Canada and Puerto Rico.

## UNITED PACKINGHOUSE WORKERS OF AMERICA, CIO

### UPWA Leaders Denounce Ga., S. C. Governors

Delegates to the District No. 9 United Packinghouse Workers of America (CIO) Anti-Discrimination Conference Saturday strongly condemned the policies of Governor Herman Talmadge of Georgia as well as Governor James F. Byrnes of South Carolina who seek to "save" segregation by threatening to abandon the public school system rather than have it democratized by a possible Supreme Court ruling.

Various aspects of discrimination in labor were also decried during the sessions, with special broad handed slaps being made at discrimination of women in jobs. With discrimination in pay of Negro women as a point for discussion in one of its most important caucuses, the sessions concerned on the following deplorable facts:

The average income for a white woman in 1950 was \$1,060, for Negro women it was \$474 for the same year. White men received an average income in 1950 of \$2,709, Negro men \$1,471 for the same period.

And that profits from discrimination against 18 million white women workers amounted to \$263 billion — profits from discrimination against 2 million Negro women workers amounted to \$41 billion Dollars, or a total of \$31 billion Dollars.

In a resolution approved shortly after the two-day conference got underway Saturday at the Waluhaje Apartments, the District No. 9 UPWA delegates said: "We are fully aware of the long and vicious record of both Talmadge and Byrnes, not only against the democratic rights of American citizens, but also against the rights of labor as well."

#### LASLEY KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Highlighting the opening session Saturday morning was a stirring keynote address delivered by Russell Lasley, vice president of the International UPWA from Chicago, Ill. Other speakers included Dr. George Mitchell, and Harold Fleming, director and executive secretary respectively of the Southern Re-

gional Council. A. O. McKinney, president of the District No. 9 Executive Board presided.

During the two-day session, delegates will concentrate on four panel discussions which began Saturday and will be concluded with recommendations and resolutions today. Saturday night they were feted with a non-segregated banquet.

The topics of the four panel discussions are:

1. How Discrimination Affects Grievances
2. How Discrimination Affects the Contract Negotiations
3. How Discrimination Affects Wage Rates
4. How Discrimination Affects Women

#### PRESERVE OUR SCHOOLS

In another resolution, the delegates called for preservation of the public schools. It pointed out that after a long and tedious struggle the working people of America established the public school system so that all children could be educated at public expense irrespective of race, color or creed.

Referring specifically to legislation forced through the General Assembly of Georgia last week, the resolution said:

"Therefore be it resolved that the delegates of the District UPWA Anti-Discrimination Conference hereby condemn the Action of the Governor and the Georgia General Assembly as an outright attempt to blackmail the Supreme Court and to circumvent a complete or partial ban upon segregation in the public schools. Our government is a government of laws and not of men, and when a Governor takes into his hands the power to abolish the public schools and to force the continuation of segregation, he has violated his oath of office both in letter and in spirit."

The delegates to the Anti-Discrimination Conference, the first such meeting to be held in District No. 9 comprising the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Florida, reaffirmed their staunch support of the fundamental rights and civil liberties policies of the United Packinghouse Workers of America, CIO.

## Boost in colored workers' income still only half as much as whites

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ANP)—In spite of the economic boom during the war and postwar years, the income of colored workers has remained about half the amount paid white workers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

A study comparing the average income of colored workers with that of whites revealed that the former, in 1950, earned slight more than half of the income earned by whites, although their position was relatively better than in pre-war years.

A report of this study further revealed that colored persons not only have less purchasing power than the average white worker, but are faced with less security in old age, and that their dependents are not so well provided for in the event of death.

The 1950 statistics showed that the median income of these wage earners during that year was \$1,295, 48 per cent less than for comparable white workers.

The median annual income of families in that same year was \$1,869 or 54 per cent of the \$3,445 average for white families.

During the past 12 years between 1940 and 1952, the differences between kinds of jobs held by colored workers and whites narrowed somewhat.

The most striking change in both the industrial and occupational composition of employment was a much more pronounced shift away from agriculture than for whites.

Many colored farmers moved into the urban areas in the North and West, as well as in the South, where they were able to get better jobs and were less heavily concentrated in the traditionally unskilled low-wage occupations.

As a result the workers' income was more favorable in 1952 than in 1940, although they were still less well off than white workers.

FAIRS

A Highlight of New York's Exposition

## 'Made in Negro America'

**WASHINGTON** — The inner workings of the industrial machine of Negro America will be exhibited at the 1953 International Exposition in New York City, by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, President Geneva K. Valentine disclosed yesterday.

Broken down into eight basic centers, the "Made in America" exhibition will give viewers at the thirteenth annual Women's International Exposition a picture of home, service, food, clothing, advancement, communication, industry and commerce, all combining to produce Negro America's efficient, fast-moving economic structure.

The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, sponsor of the "Made in Negro America" exhibit in the exposition, is slated to be the only Negro unit participating among some fifty organizations and 150 nationality groups represented.

It will be the second straight year that the Negro Business and Professional Women have participated in the exposition, under the planning of their exposition committee chairman, Mrs. Alberta L. Person of Brooklyn, N. Y.

In the past years, each affair has drawn over 100,000 viewers.

The purpose of the Business and Professional Women exhibiting products "Made in Negro America" is to make Negro America aware of itself and the rest of the nations, as well as the world, conscious of the increasing part Negro America plays as a bulwark of the American system.

The "Made in Negro America" exhibitions will include exhibits of insurance companies, newspapers, banks, handicrafts, radio stations, beauty products, food products, as well as other exhibits showing a cross-section of the business phase

of Negro industrialism. Myriad details of the exhibition are being handled by Law-Gibson Associates, public relations consultants to the Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs. Interested businessmen are urged to address inquiries to the Law-Gibson Association, 410 S. Fifteenth Street, Philadelphia 46, Pa.

## Courier Editorials

**Job Bias in Pennsylvania**

THE REPORT of widespread job discrimination against Negroes, Jews and others in Pennsylvania, as handed down last week by Gov. John S. Fine's fourteen-member committee, cannot be said to be shocking because it simply confirms what almost every informed citizen knows.

After a survey of 1,229 diversified companies employing nearly one million workers, the report discloses that 90 per cent of the employers are unfair toward Negroes in hiring, promoting or restricting apprenticeship opportunities, and only 10 per cent are totally free of such bias.

Even in unskilled work 38 per cent of the employers were unfair to Negroes, and the job discrimination increased among the semi-skilled (52 per cent), the skilled (67 per cent), the supervisory (83 per cent), office workers (88 per cent), engineering (89 per cent), and sales (92 per cent).

Contrary to the general understanding, however, it is the smaller rather than the larger concerns which are mostly guilty of job bias: that is to say, little business is worse than big business.

This record could not be much worse, if any, in the deep South.

While 7 per cent of the establishments have liberalized their employment policies with respect to Negro workers since the war, it is very clear that much of this is due to the tight labor market rather than any fundamental change of heart.

This means that Pennsylvania needs and must have a fair employment practices law as strong as those in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut and other progressive states, and enforced even better.

Such a bill is scheduled to be introduced in the Pennsylvania Legislature next week but there is no certainty that it will become a law because powerful interests, business and agriculture, are openly or covertly opposed to it.

If it does not pass, than its proponents have their job cut out for them between now and the next sitting of the Legislature.

That job is the tremendous one of "selling" FEPC to the majority of the people in Pennsylvania's sixty-seven counties through all media of communication—press, radio, television, churches, social or-

ganizations, labor unions and other economic organizations.

It is not a job for a handful of dedicated people but one that requires thousands of collaborators in all parts of the state.

Even if the law passes, a state-wide organization with city and county councils will be necessary to make it enforceable, as it cannot be unless the people want it.

It is nationally important that Pennsylvania be added to the eleven states now having FEPC laws because it is the industrial heart of America with a rising population of a half million urban Negroes.

With two-thirds of all our people living in urban communities where almost all industries and businesses are located, FEPC strategy demands that the major industrial states be won over first, from Massachusetts to the Mississippi River, and Pennsylvania is the keystone.

Considerable headway has been made in realizing this goal, but the strategic structure will be greatly weakened if Pennsylvania is not in it.

In this crucial struggle Pennsylvania's half-million Negroes, who suffer from employment discrimination, must take the lead.

**Job Discrimination****9 In 10 Firms****Interviewed****Admit Guilt**

*Opinion*  
Survey Shows 67%

Of Pa. Companies  
~~Bar~~  
Practice Racism

HARRISBURG—"In the home of William Penn, established to further the brotherhood of us all, it shocks the conscience of our citizens to see about us this barbaric rejection of our fellowman in this primary need—employment." This was the statement of Gov. John S. Fine, this week, as he released a report which reveals that 67 per cent of all Pennsylvania firms discriminate against minority groups in their employment of skilled workers.

The 35-page report—"A Survey of Discriminatory Employment Practices in Pennsylvania"—is the most exhaustive study of its kind ever made in this state.

It covers 1,229 diversified companies, both manufacturing and non-manufacturing, employing nearly a million workers throughout Pennsylvania. The survey was the principal mission of Gov. Fine's 14-member Industrial Race relations commission, appointed last May.

**Only 1 Out Of 10 Fair**

The report stated that only one-tenth of all firms covered in the survey are totally free of discriminatory employment practices. The other 90 per cent are "unfair" toward at least one minority group in hiring, promoting or restricting apprenticeship opportunities.

State-wide job discrimination, the survey stated, is least among unskilled laborers, but propor-

tionately higher as jobs pass through the semi-skilled and skilled classifications to the supervisory, office, engineering and sales categories.

The survey stated that 38 percent of the firms covered, discriminate against at least one minority group in hiring unskilled laborers.

The percentages of "discriminatory establishments" involved in the other occupational groups are:

Skilled, 67 percent; supervisory, 83 percent; office, 88 percent; engineering, 8 percent, and sales 2 percent.

**Composition Of Commission**

The Industrial Race relations commission comprises a group of Pennsylvania's judicial, business, labor and civic leaders. The commission was charged with the responsibility of finding the extent of "unfair" employment policies in connection with racial, religious, ethnic and other minority groups.

The governor hoped the survey would guide him in deciding what actions he should seek to promote "fair and equitable" employment practices, such as the spread of educational material and passage of state fair employment practices legislation.

"In the home of William Penn, established to further the brotherhood of us all, it shocks the conscience of our citizens to see about us this barbaric rejection of our fellowman in this primary need—employment," the Governor said.

Samuel H. Daroff, Philadelphia businessman, the chairman of the commission, released the survey jointly with Gov. Fine at a press conference here. Most of the commission members were present.

**Types Of Discrimination**

The survey revealed these six other salient points:

1. Job discrimination is greatest in the Central and Southwest regions of Pennsylvania. It is least in the Northeast and Southeast sections.

6. During the last five years there have been "limited changes" in hiring policies regarding minority groups. Seven percent of the establishments surveyed have adopted "more liberal hiring policies." A "tight labor market" heavily influenced this tendency.

5. Nearly three-fourths of the firms termed "discriminatory" are discriminating against minority group workers in their promotional or upgrading practices.

More than three-quarters of the "discriminatory establishments" that employ apprentices deny apprenticeships to minority group workers.

3. "Tradition" and "company policy" were cited most frequently as the principal reasons for discrimination. In cases where a firm showed "unfairness" against only one specific minority group "frequently such discrimination was evidently inadvertent."

4. Discrimination diminishes in proportion to the size of the firms, with the exception of the smallest type firms (those em-

The Northwest region is near the State-wide average, but stands closer to the less discriminatory Northeast and Southwest than the two heavily discriminatory regions.

Most of the discrimination is against colored, although there is "significant evidence" of discrimination against Jews and other religious and nationality groups.

of state employment offices.

Commission members, besides  
Mr. Daroff, are:

Sol R. Gitman, a member of  
the State's Attorney General's  
staff, the commission secretary;  
Harry Boyer, president of the  
State CIO; State Secretary of  
Commerce Andrew J. Sordoni;  
Judge Homer S. Brown, of Al-  
legheny County Court.